



Promoting and Preserving
the Temagami Experience

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Sunday, 21 September 2014 16:45

Friends of Temagami is happy to announce our Annual General Meeting on Saturday November 8, 2014 at Smoothwater of Temagami.

Our guest speaker this year is Preston Ciere - portageur.ca. Preston will be speaking at 7:30 p.m.

All are welcome to attend the AGM meeting and to hear Preston speak.

- [Wolf Lake Coalition to press Provincial Candidates and Leaders](#)

Wednesday, 28 May 2014 20:12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 28, 2014

Wolf Lake Coalition to press provincial candidates' and leaders' commitment to protecting world's largest old-growth red pine forest.

North Bay — As the provincial election nears its climax, a coalition of 30 businesses and organizations says the time is now for candidates and party leaders to commit to

protecting the world's largest remaining stand of old-growth red pine. The Wolf Lake Coalition is using a variety of approaches to seek support from candidates in three ridings and the party leaders for protecting the old-growth forest surrounding Wolf Lake.

The forest, located in Greater Sudbury, is part of the Temagami region renowned for its forests, lakes, wildlife and diverse recreational and ecotourism opportunities. Though slated to become part of a network of protected areas, mineral claims and leases have blocked the transfer of the lands into the park system. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines has failed to seize past opportunities to let the claims and leases expire, as promised.

Coalition members are looking for support from candidates in the Sudbury, Nickel Belt and Timiskaming-Cochrane ridings, as well as the party leaders. The Coalition hopes to get commitments from all parties to finalise the forest's protection before more damage is done to the area by mineral exploration activities.

"Wolf Lake is an ecological gem of global importance. At the same time it makes an important contribution to local businesses and is cherished by the many Ontarians and visitors who have experienced it. Protecting it should be an easy decision for every party," noted Bob Olajos of the Friends of Temagami.

"In itself the protection of Wolf Lake is an important issue for Sudbury. It is also a litmus test for a balanced approach to development and conservation in the region" said Ramsey Hart of MiningWatch Canada.

Information about the responses from the candidates and leaders will be shared with the Coalition's extensive network of supporters and the media prior to the June 12 election.

Contacts

Bob Olajos, President, Friends of Temagami: 705-499-0692
Ramsey Hart, Canada Program Coordinator, MiningWatch Canada: 613-298-4745

For additional information: <http://savewolflake.org>

[New Map Retailer in Sudbury](#)

Friday, 03 January 2014 13:23

We'd like to welcome [Lure of the North](#) to our family of Temagami Adventure Planning Map retailers! Owners Dave and Kielyn Marrone are based out of Sudbury. They specialize in traditional winter travel, crafts and skills. Check out their [upcoming snowshoe camping trips](#), including the Chiniguchi/Donald loop, and Wolf Lake with winter ecologist and naturalist Dr. Gerard Courtin.

- [FOT calls on Ontario to protect endangered Temagami pines](#)

Thursday, 12 December 2013 19:13

Friends of Temagami recently joined with six organizations and two businesses to call on the Ontario government to protect Temagami's endangered old-growth pine forests, roadless wilderness, and sacred places like Spirit Rock at *Chee-skon-abikong* Lake. Will you send an email to the decision makers and urge them to increase protection in Temagami? Please click the link below.

It will take you to an email Action Alert set up by [Earthroots](#). You can easily add your own remarks to the template.

Temagami Action Alert

We can provide you with the full text of our joint submission. This is a nine page .pdf document. Please contact us if you would like a copy. (I would post it here, but I haven't quite figured that out yet....)

- [Dan Trask and the green snake of Maple Mountain](#)

Wednesday, 04 December 2013 15:10

Our friend Maureen Trask is Dan Trask's mother. In today's blog post she weaves a story of her son, green snakes and the sacred mountain Dan may have been headed toward when he disappeared two years ago.

Update: 25 Months missing, how can this be? We may never know, but still need to know what happened to Daniel. Perhaps Daniel is trying to tell us...that leads me into the green snake story that is mysteriously unfolding before us.

For those of you following this blog, you will know a live green snake was found in Daniel's back pack when the contents were searched by Don with the MibSAR team and OPP officer present. I stayed back at the cabin. When Don returned and told me about the green snake, we both had an unspoken eerie feeling, knowing Daniel had told us about his summer experience with finding a live green snake on Maple Mountain. I was disappointed there was no photo taken of the snake from the pack, but found a nature book in the cabin. As I opened the book to learn more about this snake, it opened exactly at the page describing a smooth green snake, identified as indigenous to this area. Another coincidence?

Since our searching is on hold again until next spring, Don has restarted our home renos, this time the upstairs bedrooms, one being Daniel's room. So, now the inevitable task of packing up Daniel's belongings, not an easy task, cannot be put off any longer. While emptying out drawers, I found a phone SIM card and asked Adam if he could check the contents. There was a profound picture, as shown below dated July 3, 2011,

28 months before today, 28 years old when he went missing. We are fortunate to have found this and now have a picture of Daniel holding the green snake he discovered, with the Maple Mountain tower in the background. This is truly a gift to us from Daniel. Another coincidence?



So, I reached out to learn more, what might this mean? We are grateful to Gary Potts for sharing with us:

I am a citizen of the *Teme-Augama Anishnabai* (Deep Water by the Shore People) and our People called Maple Mountain "*Chee-Bai-Gin*" (The Place where The Spirit goes after The Body Dies). It was the belief by our People that the body will always die but the spirit never will. Many of our People hold those beliefs to hold truth today and I am one of those. From my experience Daniel has sent a spirit message, via the green snake, that he is Spiritually at Peace and is with our Peoples Spirits at *Chee-Bai-Gin*. I have followed Daniel / your Family postings on Ottertooth and hope that the sharing of my experience is helpful and peaceful to you.

We too believe spirit never dies. We take comfort in knowing Daniel is where he would want his spirit to be; there is no other place he loved as much as this spiritual land. Can we find peace with this truth?

- [FOT booth at Snowwalkers Film Premiere](#)

Sunday, 01 December 2013 19:52

If you're going to be in Sudbury this Wednesday Dec 4, make time for the world premiere of [Snowwalkers: The Missinaibi Headwaters Film](#), 7:00 pm at the Laurentian University Fraser Auditorium. FOT will have a booth there, with maps and memberships for sale. Stop for a chat with Sid Bredin, he's our number one Western Temagami expert. Sid writes a good little blog on his adventures, www.canoedog.ca.

- [FOT welcomes new Board Members](#)

Thursday, 28 November 2013 19:15

FOT held our Annual General Meeting on November 9th at [Smoothwater Lodge](#) in Temagami. Three new members were elected to our Board of Directors, bringing both a generational change and new ideas.

A native of North Bay, Mercede Rogers works for the York Schools in Toronto. She has extensive backcountry experience in Temagami via the [Taylor Statten Camps](#). Josh Ginsberg is a lawyer practicing commercial law and professional liability. When not at work, Josh can often be found in the Chiniguchi wilderness. Sid Bredin lives in Sudbury and is recently retired from MNR. He brings a wealth of experience in both land management and canoeing.

There were also changes on our executive. Bob Olajos becomes President, replacing Alex Broadbent after six years at the helm. Mike MacHugh assumes the position of Vice-President. Amber Ellis takes over from Ed MacPherson as Treasurer. Alex B. takes the Secretary position and PJ Justason is Assistant Secretary.

Alex Mathias, Mike McIntosh, Dave Hill, Paul Bisson and Jay Morrison round out the 2013-2014 FOT Board of Directors.

Special thanks to outgoing Directors Dave Gillen, Francis Boyes and John Kilbridge. Both Francis and John are Charter Members of FOT and have served on the Board since our founding in 1995.

- [Annual General Meeting](#)

Sunday, 29 September 2013 22:27

The Friends of Temagami will hold their Annual General Meeting - Saturday November 9th, 2013

We are pleased to announce Bruce Hodgins as our evening guest speaker

Hosted at Smoothwater of Temagami

See flyer for more detail.

- [pARTners for Wolf Lake art camp launches](#)

Wednesday, 14 August 2013 13:08

IMMEDIATE RELEASE -August 14, 2013

Artists converge to help protect world's largest old-growth red pine forest

NORTH BAY - Eleven artists are gathering on the shores of Wolf Lake today to kick off the inaugural *pARTners for Wolf Lake* art camp. The camp, which lasts until Saturday, is a fundraiser for the Wolf Lake Coalition. Artwork created this week will be auctioned off later this year in support of the Coalition's campaign to see the world's largest old-growth red pine forest protected.

"I'm drawn to landscapes of environmental significance," explains Caryn Joy Colman, one of the participating artists. *"The Wolf Lake area fits that bill."* Colman, from Temagami, uses watercolour and topographic maps to capture outstanding natural landscapes.

In 1999, the Ontario government promised to protect the 300-year old Wolf Lake pines, located in the northeastern corner of the City of Greater Sudbury. The Wolf Lake Coalition calls on the Wynne government to honour the 14-year old promise to permanently protect Wolf Lake within the Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park. The Coalition is made up of 30 local, provincial, and national organizations and businesses.

"As an painter, I've always been drawn to the beauty of places like Wolf Lake," said North Bay artist Liz Lott. *"The fact that this incredible ecosystem is still threatened makes our work that much more important."*

New research published in June in the journal *Biodiversity and Conservation*, calls the Wolf Lake old-growth forest a, "scientifically irreplaceable system." Red pine once covered much of northeastern North America, including what is now downtown Sudbury. Extensive logging and mining have eliminated these forests on all but 1.2% of their original extent, making them a critically endangered ecosystem. The Wolf Lake forest is more than triple the size of the next largest remnant. There are two mining leases and dozens of mining claims in the Wolf Lake forest.

"pARTners for Wolf Lake is an opportunity to bring the beauty of Wolf Lake to a wider audience in Northern Ontario and beyond," said Bob Olajos, spokesperson for the Wolf Lake Coalition. *"I can't wait to see the amazing work that these talented artists produce."*

CONTACT

Bob Olajos, Wolf Lake Coalition: 705-499-0692 (Thurs afternoon - Saturday please call

705-237-8830)

For beautiful high-res images, contact Rob Nelson: robnelson4@gmail.com

VIDEO

<http://www.savewolflake.org/videos>

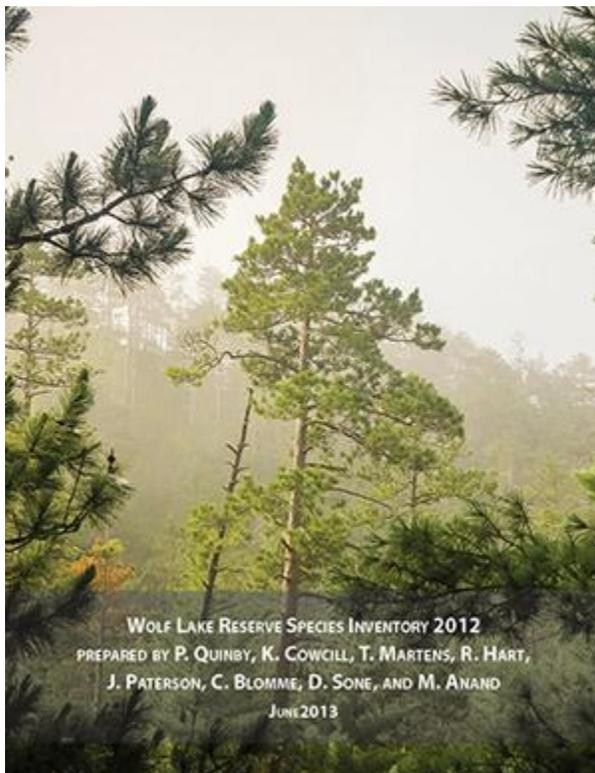
MORE INFORMATION & PAST MEDIA RELEASES

<http://www.savewolflake.org>

<http://www.partnersforwolflake.ca>

- [Scientists find 210 species at Wolf Lake - Recommend moratorium on further industrial disturbance](#)

Thursday, 13 June 2013 11:44



Sudbury - A team of scientists released a new report today on the findings of an intensive species count conducted last year at Wolf Lake. 210 species were identified including two bird species “At Risk” (special concern) the Canada Warbler and Common Nighthawk. The report finds that the Wolf Lake old-growth forest is a unique and rich natural laboratory with the potential to provide the answers to many scientific questions relating to the ecology and conservation of endangered forested landscapes. It warns that planned industrial

activity puts this value at risk.

Report and photo attached, or download here:

savewolflake.org

“We strongly urge that no further industrial disturbance be permitted to this ecosystem. The forest’s sustainable values as a natural classroom, outdoor laboratory and recreation area should not be compromised for short-sighted and speculative mineral exploration” said lead author and old growth expert Peter Quinby. “Any further industrial disturbance risks degrading the scientific value of this irreplaceable ecosystem before we have uncovered its storehouse of ecological information.”

The report documents initial efforts to create a comprehensive species list at Wolf Lake. The first season of study has identified 210 species including an abundance of lichens (47), plants (84), aquatic invertebrates (6), reptiles and amphibians (10), breeding birds (60), and incidental observations of mammals (3 species).

Some of the more notable findings of this study include the following:

a high diversity of lichens,
an unusually high abundance of Red Pine regeneration,
observations at the northern range limits of several species of reptiles and amphibians that have helped fill knowledge gaps of species' distributions,
observations of two bird species “At Risk” (special concern) the Canada Warbler and Common Nighthawk. A high number of mature forest dependent bird species like pine warbler and a high diversity of species/habitats within a small area.

The report makes recommendations for further study and identifies a need to determine the true extent of the Wolf Lake old-growth Red Pine forest, which extends beyond the 1,600 ha suggested by the MNR, and outside of the area protected from logging.

The Wolf Lake ancient forest is the largest remaining ancient red pine forest, an endangered ecosystem that remains on only 1.2% of its former extent.

CONTACT Peter Quinby: 705-476-2165, Ramsey Hart: 705-476-2165. Download the report at: savewolflake.org

- [Historic fur trade route reopened](#)

Monday, 03 June 2013 12:16

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday May 30, 2013

[Little Hawk Portages, between Temagami and Timmins, reconnected after 87](#)

years

North Bay – After three years of work, the Friends of Grassy River and the Friends of Temagami have reopened the Little Hawk Portages, which cross the height-of-land between the Arctic and Atlantic watersheds near Gowganda.

The four portages, totaling 6.8 km, connect the West Montreal River (which flows into the Ottawa River) and the Grassy River (which flows into the Mattagami and Moose Rivers).

Originally a travel route for the Ojibway people, the route gained prominence during the fur trade. Travelling through the area in 1900, the Geological Survey of Canada's George Gray, wrote: "The four portages from Hawk Lake to Opishgoka or Pigeon Lake, known as the 'Hawk Portages,' have at one time been well cut out and much used, having formed a part of the Hudson's Bay Company route between Fort Matachewan and Mattagami, but at present they are badly choked by successive windfalls."

"This project would not have been possible without the cooperation of the local First Nations," said Laurent Robichaud, Acting Chair of the Friends of Grassy River. "This represents a joining of hands and hearts of all those who share these waters today." The portages were also used by Lake Temagami youth camps journeying to James Bay. The last such canoe trip was undertaken by Camp Keewaydin in 1926.

"We hope that Temagami's youth camps, as well as young people from the local communities, will rediscover pieces of our Canadian heritage," said the Friends of Temagami's Paul Bisson. "We did this for the youth."

CONTACT:

Laurent Robichaud,
Acting Chair, Friends of Grassy River,
(705) 268-2078

- [Canoe Camp Facebook invites Wynne to paddle Wolf Lake using stunning time lapse video.](#)

Tuesday, 07 May 2013 12:35

Sudbury – Today Camp Keewaydin on Lake Temagami launched a breathtaking time-lapse video on Facebook, inviting Premier Wynne to join them on a canoe trip to Sudbury's famed Wolf Lake, home to the world's largest ancient red pine forest. Advocates are hoping that the new Premier will breathe life into the deadlocked conversation over providing full protection for one of Sudbury's top eco-tourism destinations. The Government of Ontario promised to protect Wolf Lake in 1999, but last year mining leases surrounding Wolf Lake owned by Calgary based Flag Resources were renewed for 21 years.

“Premier Wynne, please join us on a leisurely paddle to beautiful Wolf Lake this summer,” wrote Bruce Ingersoll, Director of Camp Keewaydin. “Our campers have loved Wolf Lake’s old growth forests for over 100 years, and we think you will too.” The video features breath taking new time lapse photography shot at Wolf Lake last summer by Christoph Benfey, Joel Sjaarda and Rob Nelson.

“We are hoping that Premier Wynne will join the dialogue about Wolf Lake to help us find a resolution that protects this world class destination,” said Bob Olajos speaking for the Wolf Lake Coalition. “When she comes, she will find that the ancient pines, clear waters, and rocky ridges speak for themselves.”

Every summer, thousands of people from near and far come to camp at Wolf Lake. Outfitters, guides, lodges, camps, restaurants, and motels depend on the boost that tourism and recreational spending provides.

A group of eight Temagami area camps alone infuses over \$3.5 million in direct spending into the renewable economy each year, while providing leadership development, healing, and educational experiences to approximately 700 youth annually.

“Our campers have enjoyed Wolf Lake for over a hundred years, bringing stable, renewable economic activity to Ontario,” said Ingersoll. “We’d like to continue doing that for another hundred years. This area should be permanently protected so that our grandchildren can enjoy it as we have.”

Ancient red pine forests were once widespread, but now they are extremely rare and are estimated to persist on only 1.2% of their former extent.

CONTACT:

Bruce Ingersoll, Camp Keewaydin: 416-548-6120, 802-352-4709

Bob Olajos, Wolf Lake Coalition: 705-499-0692

For beautiful video and high res images of Wolf Lake contact Rob Nelson: Rob Nelson < robnelson4@gmail.com >

MORE INFORMATION: SaveWolfLake.org

- [Amber Ellis honoured at the AGM](#)

Wednesday, 14 November 2012 14:04



Amber Ellis was the recipient of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award at the Friends of Temagami Annual General Meeting.

Amber became involved in the effort to protect the Temagami region during the blockade in 1989. It was a pivotal point in the evolution of Temagami advocacy.

It was at this time Amber started working for the Temagami Wilderness Society (TWS), designing posters and helping to organize rallies at Queen's Park.

It was evident at the onset, that Amber possessed those qualities of a “quiet” leader and organizer. For years after the TWS downsized and morphed into **EARTHROOTS**, Amber was the “background” anchor of the organization and continues to serve **EARTHROOTS** as its Executive Director.



"Amber is certainly a rare individual that has devoted her adult life to the cause. Remaining a selfless and silent hero working for the betterment of the natural world and our collective quality of life." - Hap Wilson

Friends of Temagami is proud and pleased that Amber was elected to the Board of Directors at this year's Annual General Meeting. We look forward to benefiting by her wealth of knowledge and experience both in wilderness advocacy and leadership.
Amber speaks about her introduction and advocacy for the Temagami wilderness (MP3)

- [Annual General Meeting 2012](#)

Thursday, 06 September 2012 15:20

Friends of Temagami Annual General Meeting
October 27th at Smoothwater Lodge in Temagami.

Exciting topics and a great guest speaker!

Please click on the following link for more details.

AGM Invite



Annual General Meeting
 Saturday October 27th 2012

smoothwater
 OF TEMAGAMI

Lodging at Smoothwater
 Rooms: Bunkie \$30
 Staff House \$50
 Single \$90
 Double \$100

Dinner at Smoothwater Lodge
 Smoothwater regional cuisine
 (prices for one drink)
 Carve (Lunch) \$25
 \$35

This Years Guest Speaker
Gary Potts



Gary Potts, former Chief of the Temagami First Nation (TFN) and Temagami Anishinabai (TAA), will be discussing the history of a'Dakl Menan, the traditional lands of the Deep Water People and the native perspective on land use in the Temagami Region.

Please RSVP: email@friendsoftemagami.org

Smoothwater of Temagami
 2007 12th Ave
 1000 17th Ave. south of Temagami (Highway 248)
 Tel: 705-699-2100
 email: temagami@smoothwater.net
 www.smoothwater.com

For additional agenda and event information, please contact:
email@friendsoftemagami.org

- [The search for Daniel Trask continues](#)

Friday, 13 July 2012 14:29

The search for Daniel Trask continues into week thirty six and efforts are focusing on the Diamond Lake area where items of Daniel's clothing were found early this spring. An [updated flyer](#) can be found on ottertooth.com as well as regular information postings on the [forum](#). Don and Maureen Trask are appreciative of all help and any information regarding the search for Daniel. "Thanks" to the Friends of Temagami for all your help and support. FOT members Kim Cowan and Mike MacHugh went out of their way for us, you are both amazing! They have made sure the Friends of Temagami booth had Daniel's flyers and pocket cards available to help inform others about him missing in the Temagami backcountry, what to keep an eye out for if in that area, and what to do if anything is found. The events included [Day of 1,000 Canoes](#) on June 23rd in Caladonia and the grand opening of [Treks in the Wild](#) in Paris, on June 30th.



Mike commented "the item that had the

most curious onlookers was the display we had for Daniel. I talked to most of the people who were picking up the cards and told them that the flyer was the most updated one and they took one also. What was most amazing was I asked them if they visited the Temagami area and most have never heard of it but they would take the flyers & cards anyways. WOW... that was amazing!! People are amazing!! That just floored me!! They never been there or will go there but yet they care for this guy "Daniel" who is missing. People care!! WOW!!".

Yes, people do care and are helping us to get through this challenging time. The Friends of Temagami is part of the big paddling family; like our firefighter family who are always there to help, always there to support us. Daniel may be missing, but our family just keeps growing! It is humbling to know that the Friends of Temagami will continue to have a display for Daniel at all their booths and events. We are very, very grateful.

With our deepest gratitude,
Don and Maureen Trask

- [Scientists converge on Wolf Lake for species count](#)

Wednesday, 04 July 2012 12:27

Wolf Lake Coalition Press Release

Sudbury - Today a team of scientists is converging on the world's largest remaining ancient red pine forest at Wolf Lake for an intensive species count as part of an on-going effort to document the diverse species that make their home in this critically endangered forest - before it is too late. If they succeed in finding Species at Risk their efforts could help to permanently protect the area. Despite being long-recognized as a unique and important natural area this rare forest is threatened by imminent mining exploration.

WHERE: Within the City of Greater Sudbury lies Wolf Lake, the world's largest old growth red pine forest. (1.5 hours from Kukagami Lake road, contact us for directions)

WHEN: July 4th. Camping is available for reporters who wish to stay over night.

WHO: A broad team of scientists including:

Dr. Peter Quinby – renowned old growth ecologist.

Prof. Madhur Anand – UofGuelph expert on forest response to climate change.

Prof. Peter Beckett – Laurentian U, wetland ecologist.

James Paterson – Ontario Nature Herpetology Atlas.

Ramsey Hart - field ornithologist and Canada Program Coordinator for MiningWatch Canada

Scientists and campaigners will be available for interviews on the ecological and scientific importance of Wolf Lake, and the animals and plants that live there.

VISUALS: Excellent opportunities to photograph and video ancient pines, clear blue lakes, quartzite hills, canopy research climbers, and scientists at work. Guided hikes are available.

For more details, driving directions, or to arrange interviews contact: Bob Olajos 705-499-0692

Wolf Lake Background

"There are compelling reasons to preserve Wolf Lake Forest for scientific and ecological reasons. Not only are red pine dominated old-growth forests rare in North America, Wolf Lake Forest is unique because it is nearly 4 times larger than the second largest remaining stand. Our studies have shown that some populations migrating north due to climate change may be taking advantage of Wolf Lake Forest as a refuge to establish themselves. Old growth forests are extremely important as habitat for rare wildlife, storehouses of genetic information, and records of our changing climate," explained renowned old growth ecologist Dr. Peter Quinby. "Allowing mining at Wolf Lake is a very short sighted policy that puts our best remaining example of this rare ancient forest ecosystem at risk.

Red pine is one of Ontario's most iconic tree species; a signature of our cherished northern landscape. Ancient red pine forests once covered much of north-eastern North America, including what is now downtown Sudbury. Extensive logging and mining have eliminated these ancient forests on all but 1.2% of their original extent, making them a critically endangered ecosystem.?

There are two mining leases and dozens of mining claims in the Wolf Lake area. On May 31 Ontario renewed one of the Wolf Lake mining leases for 21 years.

In 1999, the government of Ontario promised to protect the 300 year old Wolf Lake ancient pines located in the famous greater Temagami canoeing area northeast of Sudbury.

The Wolf Lake Coalition comprises 30 Sudbury-area, provincial and national organizations and businesses. The Coalition calls on the government of Ontario to honour the 13 year old promise to permanently protect Wolf Lake.

This field expedition is one component of a larger ecological inventory effort taking place this summer at Wolf Lake, including documenting species and the impacts of past mineral exploration activities. Results will be reported by year's end.

- [Revival of the Little Hawk Portages](#)

Monday, 25 June 2012 21:23

A Historical Height of the Land Link Between the Arctic and Atlantic Watersheds

There are four short portages that connect the West Montreal and Grassy Rivers. A long history of native and non-native, fur traders, missionaries, land surveyors and most recently youth groups have carried canoes over this land bridge.

On June 11th 2012 the Ministry of Natural Resources has informed us that our joint partnership request to re-habilitate the historic Little Hawk Portages has been approved.



The Friends of Temagami and our Timmins own, Friends of Grassy River have filed the request back in December of 2011. The purpose of the permit application was to allow members and volunteers the possibility to re-open a historic height of land portage between the West Montreal River and the Grassy River which links the Arctic to Atlantic watershed. This permission to clear the old path was made possible by working hand in hand with Matachewan and Mattagami First Nation communities for a joint approval to revive this route on Anishnabek Traditional Territories. The Wabun Tribal Council was also instrumental in acquiring permission to proceed with this worthy enterprise. Their main concern is that if we were to find artefacts that we are to notify them and not disturb the location. We will even go one step further in saying that both partners will not search for and dig sites along the portage trail clearing. Our primary intention is to just re-open the old path for future usage.

Canoe routes played a major role in the Northern fur trade, colonization, exploration and development of our Northern Region. This year, the City of Timmins' 100th birthday, history will be preserved in this worthy project that will compliment the way we value our multicultural beginnings. Like many other canoe routes across our nation, we must not forget the heritage values of these nearly forgotten historical passages. The purpose to revive this corridor is to give opportunities to our youth and all paddlers the experience that takes them through historical travels of our forefathers and those that helped develop our great nation.

We are calling on all interested local paddlers to join us on this challenging project to rehabilitate the historic Little Hawk Portages. We will be planning outings from the 15th of August 2012 to the 15th of August 2013 which is the time period covered under the permit we hold from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. We are looking at our Phase One window of operation from the 24th of August to the 9th of September 2012. Just give us an email and we will tell you the specific dates and times of our return to the portage area in order to start clearing the path.

email@friendsoftemagami.org GrassyRiver@gmail.com

- [Report exposes two decades of errors and omissions behind failure to protect Temagami's Wolf Lake](#)

Friday, 18 May 2012 00:10

Ontario to decide fate of world's largest ancient red pine forest in May 31 mining lease decision

Today the Wolf Lake Coalition is releasing a new report documenting Ontario's failure to protect Wolf Lake in spite of ten compelling reasons to protect this unique and irreplaceable ecological gem. The report exposes a shocking record of inaction that has left the world's largest ancient red pine forest open to mining 25 years after the MNR's own forester identified the need to protect it.

Ontario is poised to make a major decision on the fate of the Wolf Lake ancient forest on May 31 as it chooses whether to renew a mining lease in the old growth for a further 21 years. If the lease is renewed the area's critically endangered ecosystem could become a strip mine should a viable mineral find be made. If the lease is allowed to lapse the 300 year old pines under that lease will automatically gain full protection as park land, as promised in 1999.

Download the report

at: <http://savewolflake.org/images/stories/ReportMay13LowRes.pdf>

The report's findings include hard evidence that:

-A majority of the Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest Reserve (F175) area was staked for mining after the old growth was put off limits to logging in 1987. Nearly half was staked after the 1999 promise by Premier Mike Harris to protect Wolf Lake in a provincial park.

-F175 mining claims have been repeatedly extended by the Minister of Northern Development and Mines even when none of the annual work required for renewal was done.

-The future of Wolf Lake is in the hands of a company whose primary promoter was found by the Alberta Court of Appeals to have "expressed disdain for the regulatory process... [and] used intemperate language to brush off the law's requirements. He expressed a determination to reoffend."

-Mining exploration at Wolf Lake has destroyed popular campsites, carved heavy machinery tracks through the old growth, knocked down ancient pines, and run oily drill rigs through pristine creeks.

-Old growth red pine forests exist on only 0.3% of the Sudbury Forest, and 0.02% of the Nipissing Forest.

"It is unacceptable that our last, best ancient red pine forest is still at risk of mining 25 years after Ontario's forester called for protection," said David Sone of Earthroots, speaking on behalf of the Wolf Lake Coalition. "If Ontario does not act now, they may close the window on protecting Wolf Lake for another two decades. It is irresponsible to wait any longer to protect this unique and irreplaceable forest."

In 1999, the government of Ontario promised to protect the 300 year old Wolf Lake ancient pines located in the famous greater Temagami canoeing area northeast of Sudbury. The Wolf Lake Coalition (savewolflake.org) comprises 30 Sudbury-area, provincial and national organizations and businesses. The Coalition calls on the government of Ontario to honour the 13 year old promise to permanently protect Wolf Lake.

"Old growth forests are extremely important as habitat for rare wildlife, storehouses of genetic information, and records of our changing climate," explained renowned old growth ecologist Dr. Peter Quinby. "Allowing mining at Wolf Lake is a very short sighted policy that puts our best remaining example of this rare ancient forest ecosystem at risk."

"This red pine old growth forest is a unique ecological treasure right in our backyard," said Naomi Grant of the Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury. "Not only does this make us incredibly fortunate to be able to experience and share this special place, but it also gives us a responsibility to ensure future generations can do the same. Places like this make Sudbury an amazing place to live."

Red pine is one of Ontario's most iconic tree species; a signature of our cherished northern landscape. Ancient red pine forests once covered much of north-eastern North America, including what is now downtown Sudbury. Extensive logging and mining have eliminated these ancient forests on all but 1.2% of their original extent, making them a critically endangered ecosystem.

The Wolf Lake ancient red pine forest is by far the largest remaining example of this disappearing ecosystem - more than triple the size of the next largest remnant. There are two mining leases and dozens of mining claims in the Wolf Lake area.

CONTACT

David Sone, Wolf Lake Coalition: 416-599-0152 x.13

Dr. Peter Quinby, Old Growth Ecologist: 705-476-2165

Franco Mariotti, Wolf Lake Coalition: 705-522-3701 ext. 244

MORE INFORMATION: SaveWolfLake.org

- [Still Missing in Temagami](#)
- [FOT releases map for Spring!](#)

Saturday, 28 April 2012 20:20

FOT map: one map to rule them all

A backcountry planner and regional all-in-one

By: Brian Back - Ottertooth.com

<http://ottertooth.com/Temagami/News/12/FOTmap.htm>

Tear down every other wall map of Temagami. Friends of Temagami released the regional-map-on-one-sheet that people have wished for years.

This tour de force covers 15,000 square kilometres from River Valley north to Elk Lake, and Lake Timiskaming west to Lake Wanapitei. In between it has the backcountry canoe routes, field notes, paleo-historic features of interest, 10-metre contours, elevation colours and hill shading. It also has grid finder for the NTS 1:50,000 federal topos and a UTM grid.

Friends (FOT) has been working on the map for four years starting with the wisdom collected by Hap Wilson, Craig Macdonald and Ottertooth.com, then topping that with the knowledge of the active regional travellers within the group's membership.

"It has been a labour of love," says mapmaker-in-chief, carto-hacker Alex Broadbent. On top of his own backcountry work, he has put in at least 1,000 hours at the keyboard — yes, his marriage did survive.

Until now, canoeists had only Ontario Parks' Canoe Routes Planning Map. It does not cover the entire region, and hasn't been updated in decades. Toss it out.

The FOT map, like Parks' planner, is not intended for field use. The fine portage detail can be found in Hap Wilson's book or here on Ottertooth.

But it is not just a canoeist's map. It belongs on the wall of every cottage on Lake Temagami and every cabin on Rabbit Lake.

- [Canoe route rescued from clearcuts](#)
- [Wolf Lake dodges bullet, but old-growth pines still in peril](#)

Tuesday, 13 March 2012 14:48

Ontario cancels plans to reduce protection at Wolf Lake, but leaves area open to mining Sudbury - Earlier today the Ontario government announced that he is cancelling plans to reduce protection in the heart of the world's largest old-growth red pine forest,

responding to a massive local outcry in favour of protecting the area. However, the Wolf Lake forest remains at risk from plans to drill for minerals.

“We want to congratulate Minister Gravelle and Premier McGuinty for making the right decision,” said Bob Olajos of the Friends of Temagami, speaking on behalf of the Wolf Lake Coalition. “This is good news, but our job isn’t done. Wolf Lake still needs to be added to the Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park.”

The Wolf Lake Old-Growth Forest Reserve, located within Sudbury city limits, is still in peril 13 years after the government of Ontario promised to protect the 300 year old pines. The Wolf Lake Coalition, comprised of 26 local, provincial and national conservation organizations and businesses, is calling on the government of Ontario to honour its promise to fully protect Wolf Lake as part of the Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park. This message is gaining momentum in Sudbury, with various initiatives planned, including a night of local paddling films at the Rainbow Cinemas, Thursday March 15, and a Mother’s Day hike at Wolf Lake.

“This red pine old-growth forest is a unique ecological treasure right in our backyard,” said Naomi Grant of the Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury, a member of the Wolf Lake Coalition. “Not only does this make us incredibly fortunate to be able to experience and share this special place, but it also gives us a responsibility to ensure future generations can do the same. Places like this make Sudbury an amazing place to live.”

Red pine is one of Ontario’s most iconic tree species; a signature of our cherished northern landscape. Pine forests once covered much of north-eastern North America, including what is now downtown Sudbury. These ancient forests remain on only 1.2% of their original extent, making them a critically endangered ecosystem. The Wolf Lake forest is the largest remaining example of this ecosystem — more than triple the size of the next largest remnant. We know of nothing like it that exists anywhere else.

CONTACT

Bob Olajos, Friends of Temagami, 705-499-0692

Franco Mariotti, Wolf Lake Coalition, 705-522-3701 ext. 244

MORE INFORMATION: SaveWolfLake.org

- [Coalition forms to protect Wolf Lake old-growth forest](#)

Monday, 06 February 2012 13:18

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday February 6, 2012

Coalition forms to protect Wolf Lake old-growth forest

Sudbury – Today 17 conservation organizations and businesses launch the new Wolf Lake Coalition to save the world’s largest old-growth red pine forest. This exceptional place, located within Sudbury city limits, is in peril more than 13 years after Ontario promised to protect the 300 year-old pines. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is proposing to reduce protection in the heart of the Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest Reserve to encourage mineral exploration. The Wolf Lake Coalition is calling on the government

of Ontario to honour its promise to fully protect Wolf Lake as part of the Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park.

The new Wolf Lake Coalition has an online home at SaveWolfLake.org.

“The Wolf Lake pine stand is a cultural jewel that connects today’s generation to the very resources that created Sudbury in the past,” said Franco Mariotti of the City of Greater Sudbury’s Green Space Advisory Panel. “To not protect the Wolf Lake old growth site is to deny future generations of this truly unique natural asset. It would be a denial of our historic past and a short -sighted vision of our future.”

The Green Space Advisory Panel, which is appointed by Sudbury City Council to provide advice on their Green Space Strategy, last week urged the city to afford Wolf Lake permanent protection as the city’s newest Ecological Reserve.

Red pine is one of Ontario’s most iconic tree species; a signature of our cherished northern landscape. Red pine forests once covered much of eastern North America, including what is now downtown Sudbury. These ancient forests remain on only 1.2% of their original extent,

making them a critically endangered ecosystem.

The Wolf Lake stand is the largest remaining example of this ecosystem — more than triple the size of the next largest remnant.

We know of nothing like it that exists anywhere else.

“If we don’t act now to fully protect Wolf Lake, then we lose the opportunity to enjoy the economic and ecological benefits of this unique forest,” said Bob Olajos of the Friends of Temagami. “What we have at Wolf Lake cannot be replicated elsewhere.”

CONTACT

Franco Mariotti, Wolf Lake Coalition, 705-522-3701 ext. 244

Bob Olajos, Friends of Temagami, 705-499-0692

WOLF LAKE COALITION MEMBERS

Ancient Forest Exploration and Research

Association of Youth Camps on Temagami Lakes

BAM North Productions

Camp Keewaydin

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Ottawa Valley

Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury

The Council of Canadians

Earthroots

Friends of Temagami

Friends of the LaVase Portages

Lake Temagami Group

Nipissing Environmental Watch

Ontario Rivers Alliance

Paddle Canada

Rob Nelson Photography

Temagami Lakes Association

Wild Women Expeditions

- [Wolf Lake video](#)

Wednesday, 21 December 2011 01:05

<https://vimeo.com/33890599>

A compilation of photos and videos from my time in and around Wolf Lake, Temagami, Canada. It is under renewed threat from mining and logging interests after back peddling by the provincial government's promise to protect it.

Photography by Rob Nelson: robnelson.ca

Music by Nigel "John" Stanford: johnstanfordmusic.com

- [ECO supports canoe routes](#)

Tuesday, 06 December 2011 18:23

PRESS RELEASE by Friends of Temagami

In November 2011, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO) submitted his Annual Report to the Ontario Legislative Assembly. It is important to note that the Commissioner placed significant importance on the need for preservation and maintenance of historic canoe routes in the Temagami and Sudbury forest areas. He noted that the concerns of Ontarians regarding the need for Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to officially recognize the historic routes and environmentally sensitive canoe routes were not being fully met.

The commissioner has strongly endorsed not only the recreational value but also the cultural and historic importance of these routes to all Ontarians. He goes on to point out in the Report that it is wrong for MNR to deny the existence of these traditional routes and portages simply because the MNR chooses to ignore them by not placing them in their data base. Therefore the Commissioner supports the position that MNR should rectify this anomaly and ensure that traditional routes and portages should be protected as part of Ontario's cultural legacy.

It is important this issue is brought to public attention in the expectation of government action to rectify the current policies and procedures that lead to the incongruity of recognizing these assets. It is also good that the results of many years of public support are now being recognized.

Alex Broadbent

President

Friends of Temagami

abroadbent@friendsoftemagami.org

- [AGM 2011 Round up](#)

Monday, 28 November 2011 18:29

The Friends of Temagami Annual General Meeting this year was a huge success in many ways; attendance, discussion and resolution as well as superb hospitality from our Host, Caryn Colman of Smoothwater of Temagami.



The AGM serves as our annual fund raiser and allows members and non-members to gain insight into the issues facing conservation of the Temagami wilderness as it relates to non-motorized recreation and environmental preservation. Highlights for the group this year were the near completion of the base map, a regional canoe route planning map and the FOT strategic plan that will help guide the group's operations and work plans. In terms of pressing issues, Wolf Lake and long term protection for its old growth forests has floated up to the top again.

Advocacy for greater protection of wilderness values at the FMP stage is a slow and drawn out process that nets small gains but is a necessary aspect of the work we do. It allows us to remain relevant in the public participation process, positioning ourselves as the local environmental group while our challenge to the FMPs, keeps the industry in check by insisting they follow the tenets of sustainable forestry as required by the CFSA

The highlight of the weekend was the after meeting presentation by guest speaker, Brian Back, who delivered an amazing recount of the history of the Red Squirrel road blockade, while demonstrating the enthusiasm and genius of the passionate environmental leaders of the day.

There were several members present who had attended the blockade, but most F of T members were either too young at the time or not able to engage. The blockade happened over 20 years ago and although it did not result in the banning of clear-cut logging in the Temagami area it did force MNR to rethink it's logging mandate and embrace sustainable forestry practices through the CFSA which became operating practice in 1994.

But the battle continues.

- [Missing Person Dan Trask](#)
Wednesday, 16 November 2011 14:20

ALERT: Missing Person

Daniel Trask

Our son is missing since Thurs. Nov. 3, 2011, believed to be in Temagami outback, car spotted on Red Squirrel Rd. If you have any information or contacts, please contact the OPP, land and air search are underway, Tues. Nov. 15th. Male, 28, brown hair, see attached photo from Changing of the Seasons 2011, Daniel (Dan) Trask



Male, 28, brown hair, see attached photo from Changing of the Seasons 2011, Daniel (Dan) Trask.

Don and Maureen Trask Waterloo request anyone with information to contact OPP.

▪ [AGM 2011 Agenda](#)

Wednesday, 26 October 2011 17:03

Smoothwater Eco Lodge, Temagami, Ontario

October 29, 2011 - 09:00 a.m - 5:00p.m.

AGENDA

- Roll Call - introductions
- Review of Agenda
 - Review of Minutes - AGM 2010
 - Accept minutes
- Business arising from the minutes
- A Year in Review – Alex Broadbent
- Budgetary Review – Ed MacPherson.
- Board of Directors Elections - review of vacancies
- Wolf Lake disentanglement – Mike McIntosh.
- Backcountry Maintenance Partnership - Bob Olajos

- Map Project – Alex Broadbent Bill Buchan
- Temagami Slideshow – Mike McIntosh
- Hawk Portages discovery- Paul Bisson

~ LUNCH ~

- FMP Review – Bob Olajos
- Draft Strategic Plan – Jay Morrison, Andrew Healy, Bob Olajos.
 - 2012 action activities: Open discussion
- Communications strategy – Andrew Fiori
- Achievement Award - Recipient Alex Mathias
- General Discussion

FOT pot luck lunch served around noon

- [FOT expands logging oversight](#)

Friday, 21 October 2011 21:44

OCTOBER 18, 2011

Brian Back ottertooth.com

<http://ottertooth.com/Temagami/newsbriefs.htm>

Friends of Temagami's dogged pursuit of the upcoming 10-year logging plan for the Timiskaming Forest brings protection to two canoe routes, a park and a conservation reserve.

FOT put in hundreds of volunteer hours and plodded through the complex planning process. It sought a reduction in the high rate of logging near three parks, but got little from industry or MNR. *"A canoe route is an awful damn hard thing to protect these days,"* says Alex Broadbent, FOT's president. It appealed the plan to the Ministry of Environment and requested an environmental assessment. In lieu of that, MOE ordered changes to the Timiskaming Forest Management Plan. MNR and industry must reduce logging next to the Makobe-Grays River Provincial Park and Makobe Grays Ice Margin Conservation Reserve, and must put buffers on the west Willow Island Creek canoe route.

The order removes a 90-hectare cut adjoining Makobe-Grays Park and the conservation reserve. The west Willow Island Creek canoe route gets temporary protection so FOT can seek permanent designation through a separate MNR process. This route has been there for thousands of years, but requires a bureaucracy to grant its survival. The group will submit a work permit request on west Willow Island Creek, but it is not stopping there. It will seek designation of 14 unrecognized canoe routes across Temagami. The Mendelssohn Lake canoe route got full protection from MNR and industry during the review of the plan, but only a 20-metre buffer between the clearcuts and shoreline. That's four canoe lengths.

Protection is a spongy concept with MNR and industry, one that never means the same thing from one MNR district to another, or between a reasonable person and a forester. It doesn't matter if that forester works for Ontario or industry.

In MNR's Temagami district, all canoe routes in Hap Wilson's Temagami Canoe Routes (1978) book are protected with at least a 30-metre buffer. In Temiskaming, they don't adhere to any record of routes. Even many designated routes do not automatically get buffered.

Lakes and water bodies along canoe routes in Temagami get 120-metre protection on shorelines. In Timiskaming, it is, apparently, 20 metres — four canoe lengths. *"That's not even an ecological buffer,"* says FOT campaigner Bob Olajos. *"To their way of thinking that's being generous."*

Consequently, the only place guaranteed an ecological buffer in the Timiskaming Forest is inside a park or conservation reserve. Timiskaming Forest is licensed by Ontario to Timiskaming Forest Alliance, a cooperative of Georgia Pacific, Eacom Timber and other corporations. The area has little history of the oversight seen farther south and logging leans to big clearcuts, as practiced in the boreal forest found in the northern part of its land base.

FOT has expanded its oversight to the four districts that make up greater Temagami: Temagami, Nipissing Forest, Sudbury Forest and Timiskaming Forest. *"For so many years nobody was advocating in Timiskaming,"* says Olajos. *"Consequently they were able to get away with a lot in places that are close to the core of Temagami, like Mendelssohn, like Lady Evelyn Lake. Now they know we are paying attention."*

- [FOT - Annual General Meeting 2011](#)
- [Strategic Planning Survey](#)
- [Wolf Lake - Respond to the issue](#)

Sunday, 03 July 2011 15:31



Wolf Lake – Chiniguchi area -

Land Management Disentanglement

EBR Registry Number: 010-7775 [Click Here.](#)

The issue in a nutshell

The Forest Reserve land use designation that protects Wolf Lake is proposed to be dropped where it coincides with mineral exploration leases, but not where it coincides with mineral exploration claims. The Forest Reserve for south Matagamasi Lake where the land issue is all mining claim, is proposed to be removed. Reasonably equivalent features in a land replacement area of 2195.7 ha will be added to the Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park. Commercial forestry and commercial aggregate extraction will not be permitted within the mining lease area.

Background

Under Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (1999) forest reserves were created where potential protected areas coincided with pre-existing mineral exploration tenure such as mining claims and leases. Forest reserves recognize these exploration and mine development rights, but other industrial uses (forestry, commercial aggregates) are not permitted. The intention was that forest reserves would become individual or additions to provincial parks or conservation reserves if the tenure lapsed through normal processes. The forest reserve designation would remain as long as the mining claim or lease was in good standing.

Comment with your concern

This proposal has been posted for a 47 day public review and comment period starting June 01, 2011. If you have any questions, or would like to submit your comments, please do so by July 18, 2011 to:

Scott Dingwall,
District Planner
Ministry of Natural Resources
Regional Operations Division Northeast Region
Sudbury District
3767 69 Highway South Suite 5
Sudbury Ontario

Additionally, you may submit your comments on-line from the link above.

FOT's take on the matter

FOT is concerned to read on the Environmental Registry that the proposal intends to remove Wolf Lake and south Matagamasi as a Forest Reserve from the waterway park by reclassifying it as a General Use or Enhanced Management Area. We have been concerned with the Wolf Lake disentanglement process since being made aware of the issue in 2007.

Since that time we submitted a joint Application for Review on January 8th, 2008 with Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) that requested that the Minister of Natural Resources undertake to regulate the Wolf Lake Forest Reserve (F175) as a protected area under the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act 2006 (PPCRA). Following this Application for Review, we were invited to attend a stakeholder's meeting on May 6th, 2008 at MNR offices in Sudbury. FOT has now submitted our continuing concerns to MNR and are described below.

Our goal for this area and for all of the Temagami backcountry has always been to preserve the natural environmental and wilderness recreational values for future generations. The Wolf Lake Forest Reserve's international significance as the largest contiguous Old Growth Red Pine Forest – arguably in the world – dictates that the Province must do everything in its power to minimize the threat of mining and development and to regulate it as a protected area.

Upon reviewing the proposed major amendment to this area, we have expressed to the MNR the following comments:

- As stated in the EBR description, the Ontario Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (1999), created forest reserves where there was conflict with existing mineral explorations claims and leases and potential protected areas. So it must have been accepted that the leases would be included from the start of the Living Legacy process.
- A number of the Wolf Lake claims/leases have fallen in and out of good standing over the years. (The claim history information is available on the MNDMF Mining website) Many of the claims have been extended such that claims filed in 1980 are still in effect now in 2011, a total of 31 years. FOT senses some of the mining

claims do not appear to be lapsing in the normal manner. After 31 years of exploration effort, nothing of value has been found on the Wolf Lake claims. The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forests (MNDMF) has told us that the area has mineral potential. This appears to be based solely on the quantity of exploration activity and not on any mineral findings and confirming studies.

- If MNR removes the Forest Reserve designations from Wolf and Matagamasi Lakes, it would be extremely difficult to complete the Chiniguchi Waterway Park, when these claims finally lapse.
- We are pleased with the proposed amendment to keep the Forest Reserve designation for the mining claims within that portion of F175 in Mackelcan Township, and to include these claims into the Chiniguchi Waterway Park in the event that the claims should lapse.
- Due to the area's unique ecological characteristics, FOT strongly opposes removal of any protection of the Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest Reserve or in the south Matagamasi Lake area, which is covered by the current mining leases. The fact that the Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest is ecologically unique makes it simply irreplaceable. In addition, due to the area's rugged beauty, the Wolf Lake and the Matagamasi Lake areas have become popular camping, hiking, and canoeing destinations and are already showing signs of overuse, also contributing to the area's environmental degradation. The removal of the current Forest Reserve designation on these areas with a change to a 'General Use' or 'Enhanced Management' area is sure to complicate any future plans and necessary regulation of the addition of these areas to the Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park. .
- FOT appreciates the proposal that would convert the East side of Chiniguchi Lake from Forest Reserve to Park status, but question why the entire lake is not being proposed for park status.
- FOT would like to encourage the Government of Ontario to protect this world-class eco-tourism destination and to maintain status quo on current Forest Reserve designation, until such time as the mining claims and leases lapse, and can be added to the Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park.

Image courtesy of www.earthroots.org

- [International Year of the Forest](#)

Wednesday, 06 April 2011 11:53



The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

FOT will celebrate and observe the International Year of the Forests by submitting a photo essay to UN event organizers so they may showcase the magnificent Temagami forest and our connection to it through the official website. Photos and articles can be contributed on your behalf.

The International Year of Forests 2011 logo is designed to convey the theme of "Forests for People" celebrating the central role of people in the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of our world's forests. The iconographic elements in the design depict some of the multiple values of forests and the need for a 360-degree perspective: forests provide shelter to people and habitat to biodiversity; are a source of food, medicine and clean water; and play a vital role in maintaining a stable global climate and environment. All of these elements taken together reinforce the message that forests are vital to the survival and well being of people everywhere, all 7 billion of us.

UN website <http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/index.shtml>

- [A History of the Little Hawk Portages](#)

Saturday, 12 February 2011 01:41

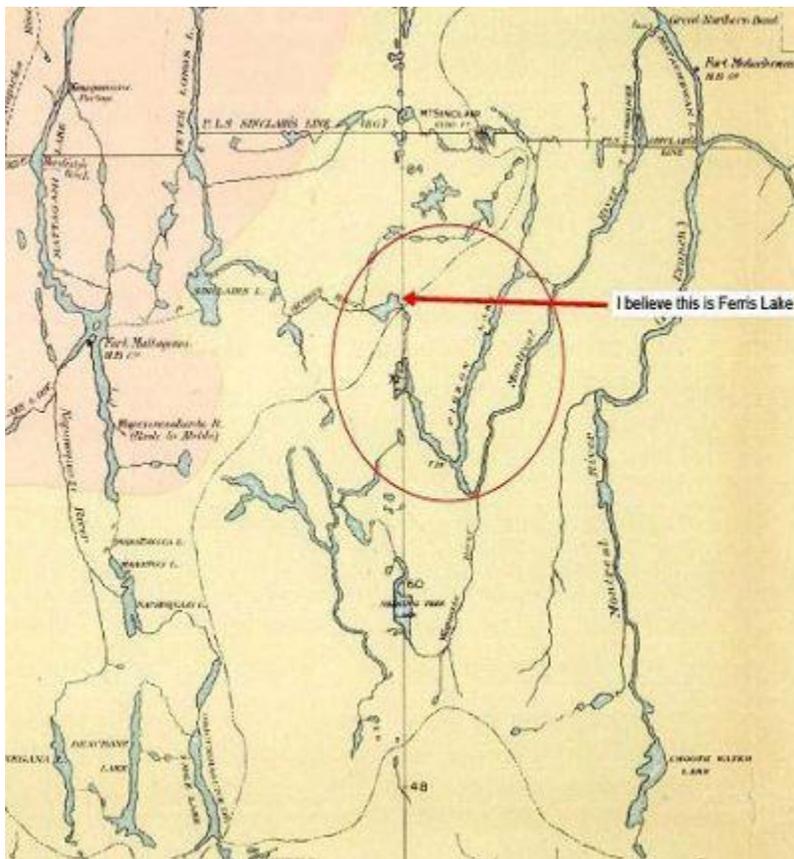
By Laurent Robichaud

[Far in Temagami's northwest, upstream still from Matachewan, lie four little portages. They run north-south, from Pigeon Lake on the West Montreal River, to Ferris Lake, on the Grassy River. They seem so simple, yet the watershed they cross and the history they hold is immense. There are but few ways to travel by canoe from Temagami to

James Bay. But the inhabitants and invaders, packateers and traders, the missionaries, settlers, prospectors, surveyors, and campers all found their way... over the Little Hawks. -ed.]

Sometimes we ask ourselves why we do what we do. My search for the Little Hawk Portages has been unusual to say the least. Over a year ago I received a call from Ed McPherson with the Friends of Temagami. He asked if I knew about the height-of-land portages from the West Montreal River to the Grassy River. Looking for these historically significant portages originated in my participation with another northeastern Ontario "Friends of" group. The Friends of the Grassy River is trying to prevent a hydro generation project at High Falls, near Timmins. It was because of our savehighfalls.com website that Ed found my name.

I started my search, as I would normally do, by looking at maps and finding the easiest route. One possibility went down a bush road near Big Four Lake, but that route didn't seem to please Ed, so I quit the search. A month later, while driving, I got a flash. A friend of mine had given me photocopies of land surveys done in 1900 and earlier. He gave them to me thinking they would help us save High Falls. Well that was it! The search began again!



When you start looking at the history of First Nations, fur traders, geologists and even youth camps, you ask yourself: "How did they travel across country, in so many directions, all across Ontario and beyond?" How much traffic the Little Hawk Portages had will be hard to determine. It

was used at least up to 1926 by Camp Keewaydin expeditions to James Bay. Early Canadian Geographic Survey records go back to 1875. When I found out there are pictographs on Ferris Lake, on the Arctic watershed side of the portages, it added more reason to continue searching for this elusive connection. Only when one of our Friends of the Grassy River members found a 1900 map of the Districts of Algoma and Nipissing that I resumed my search. That map clearly shows the trails' location, between Pigeon Lake on the West Montreal River and Ferris Lake on the Grassy River.

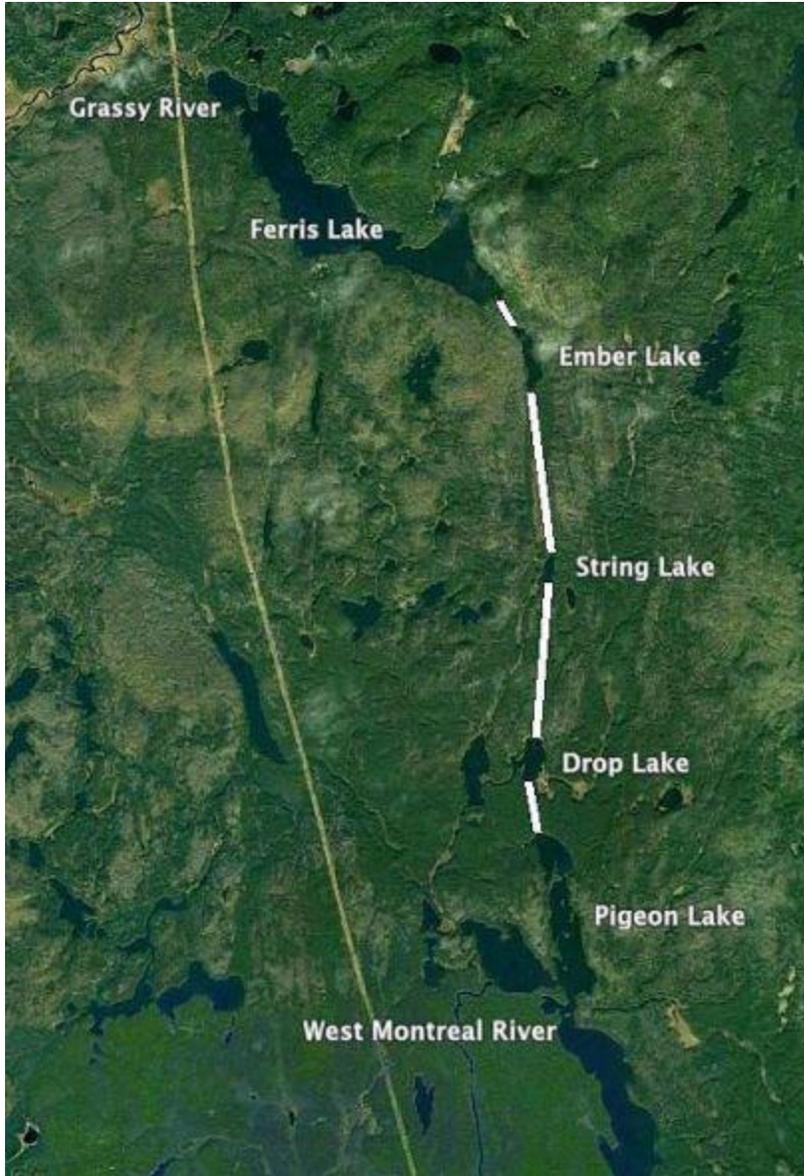
Part 2: Geologists and Surveyors, 1867-1900

The Little Hawks were also used during later part of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. Robert Bell, a geologist with the Geological Survey of Canada, writes about them in his [Report on an Exploration in 1875 Between James' Bay and Lakes Superior and Huron](#):

From the northern extremity of Pigeon Lake, the route which I followed passed northward over four portages and three ponds, to the eastern extremity of Kaik-kaik-ose or Little Hawk Lake. The four portages are called the Little Hawks. The first is 897, and the last 510 paces long, while each of the two intervening ones measures about one mile and a-quarter.

Further on, Bell talks about how, after crossing Kaik-kaik-ose (now called Ferris) Lake, they paddled the Grassy River to connect with the Hudson's Bay Company post at Fort Mattagami:

Kaik-kaik-ose Lake discharges by a large brook. After flowing less than a mile, this joins another from the northeastward and forms the Grassy River, which, in its north westward course of about fourteen miles to Shatagami Lake, expands frequently to form long marshes and shallow lakes.



Shatagami Lake is now named Sinclair Lake, in honour of Duncan Sinclair's east-west survey line of 1867. This was the turning point, to portage west for five and a half miles to Fort Mattagami.

Land surveyors also used the Little Hawks. The 1900 Report of Exploration Survey Party No. 3, under George R. Gray, relates their travels. His surveyors, Demorest and Silvester, make interesting comments about the portages:

A very imposing elevation on the North side of Little Hawk marks the divide between the Hudson's Bay and St Lawrence waters; but the actual divide is level and at a very low elevation not more than ten or twelve feet above the water on either side.

The four portages from Hawk Lake to Opishgoka or Pigeon Lake known as the "Hawk Portages" have at one time been well cut out and much used, having formed part of the Hudson's bay Company Route between Fort Matachawan and Mattagami but at present

they are badly choked by successive windfalls.

In 1958, John Macfie found native pictographs on the southeast corner of Ferris Lake. Bell and Gray recorded native activity all along the route. Ojibwa and Métis lived throughout the area. Joe Jarbeau, Sandy Green, and Daddy Restoule lived with their families between Pigeon Lake and Sinclair Lake. When the first surveyors passed through, the elders said that they had lived there for over twenty-five years. Dating the pictographs could show some interesting historical information.

Part 3: Youth Camps Reach the Bay

Perhaps my most prized findings of recorded travels were from Keewaydin Way, by Brian Back. His book brought back memories of my younger years when I lived near the Groundhog River in Fauquier. Camp Keewaydin has a history on Lake Temagami's Devil Island dating back to 1904. Since then, they have logged some impressive expeditions, including their first trip to James Bay and back in 1911. The first time the all-boys camp used the Little Hawks was in 1926, on the Moose Factory-Grand Lake Victoria expedition.

That trip started on Lake Temagami and headed northwest, up the Trout Streams to Smoothwater Lake. They then followed the Montreal and West Montreal Rivers to Pigeon Lake, where they portaged the Little Hawks to Ferris Lake. To this day, Keewaydin calls the Little Hawks, "the Pigeon Portages," because they started their crossing from the south end. Perhaps unknown to them, these were the famous Little Hawks. The boys then paddled down the Grassy, the Mattagami, and the Moose rivers to Moose Factory. They then paddled up the Abitibi River to Grand Lake Victoria, Lake Kipawa, Lake Temiskaming, and home to Temagami. Back called this Keewaydin's, "most extreme trip." The guide, Pete Stanger, never returned to the camp.

High Falls on the Grassy River Since that time, Keewaydin and other youth canoe camps (Wanapitei, Ahmek, Wapomeo, and probably others) have paddled the Grassy. The river is a gentle run, with a few small rapids and the spectacular High Falls. If you're not up to a full Bay trip, you can loop back upstream on the Mattagami River to the Gogama or Shiningtree areas.



Much history behind the traffic on the Little Hawks remains to be discovered. We will never hear all the stories related to this important early travel route, but one thing is for sure, I hope it will never be forgotten.

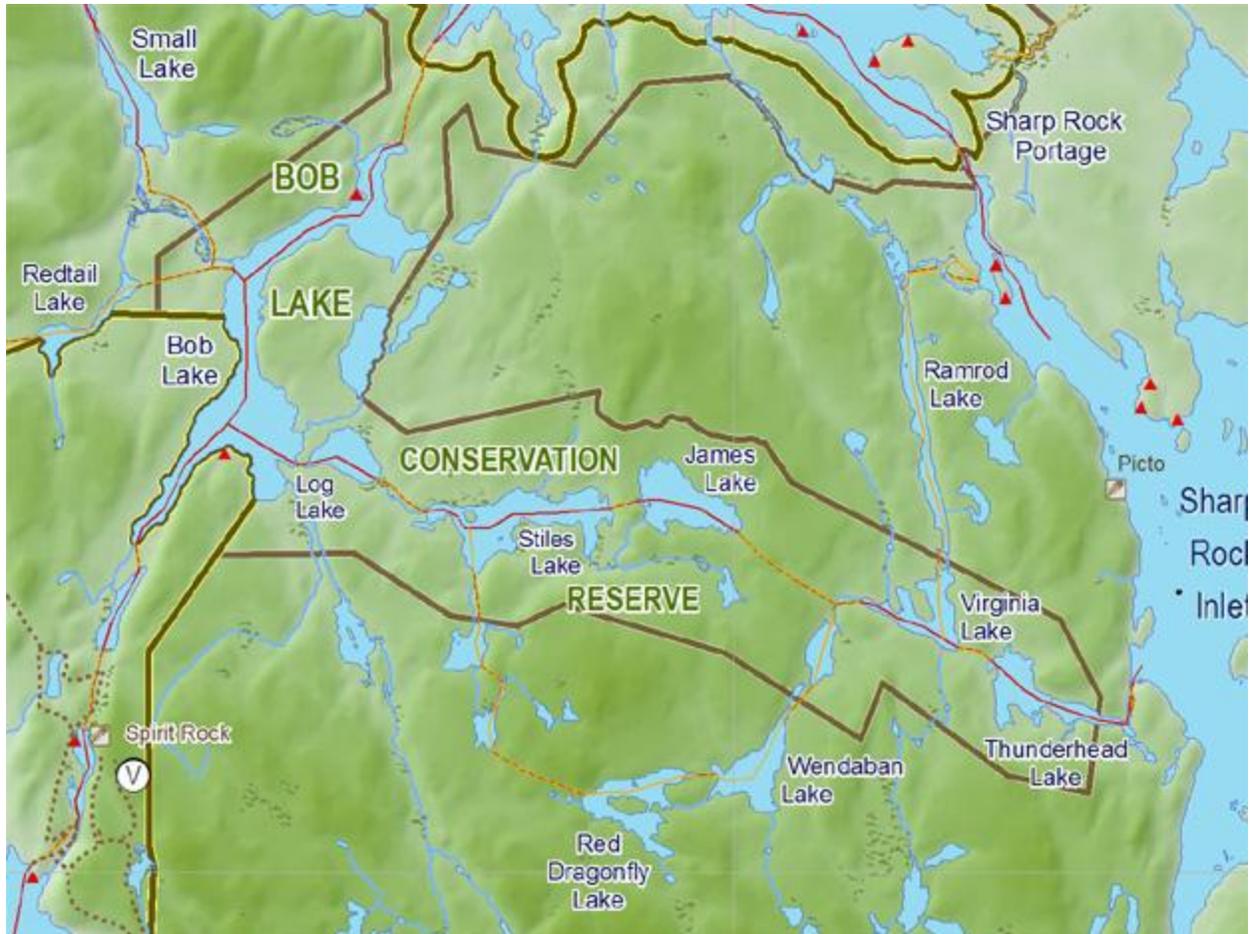
Thank you to Laurent Robichaud of Friends of the Grassy River for his pioneering work in the revival of the Little Hawk Portages, and for writing this series. For more information on the campaign to protect the Grassy from hydroelectric development, please see <http://www.savehighfalls.com>

We hope you enjoyed "Finding Temagami's lost route to James Bay." For more information on the Friends of Temagami and how you can help protect historic canoe routes and wilderness in northeastern Ontario, please see the Info Tab on our Facebook Page. Please become a member and support our important work. See the Shop Now Tab for details. Thank you!

- [Spirit Forest Travels - South Cantons](#)

Friday, 11 February 2011 18:57

In September 2006, Nastawgan Network members Neil Caswell and Mike Murphy explored and re-opened all portages that are a part of the ancient nastawgan travel routes of the little used Canton Lakes South Loop. A side trip off of the more traveled Canton Lakes Route; it connects Virginia and Stiles Lakes via Canton, Wendaban, Red Dragonfly, Chicot and an unnamed lake. This loop could be an alternative to the more heavily traveled Temagami, Diamond and Obabika lakes. We traveled this route heading west from Sharp Rock Inlet on Lake Temagami.



Trip Log:

In the fall of 2005 as we headed through the Canton Lakes on our way to Chee-skon-abikong Lake, home of the Spirit Rock, the sound of a small waterfall (Kaw-kaw-abikaw) caught my ear on the portage from Virginia into James Lake. On my return trip back for the canoe I followed a narrow trail to view the cascade as it spilled down a rock face. I continued on a little further following a faint but definite trail. My interest was tweaked and another adventure was already forming in my mind, to discover old trails to hidden lakes and to follow a route lightly traveled in recent times. The route is indicated on Craig McDonald's historical map of the area. This route, along with scattered pockets of virgin old-growth red and white pine, is currently being threatened by logging operations. As we journeyed towards Chee-skon-abikong and the Spirit Rock the incessant drone of logging machines disrupted the wilderness and changed the mood of the area. As I reflected, I vowed to give back to nature and help protect another area of vanishing wilderness and preserve the fading Nastawgan trails.

Day 1

Arriving in Temagami after the long drive north, we caught a short flight with Lakeland Air up to Sharp Rock Inlet under blue skies and over mirror-like waters. Our first night was spent on Thunderhead Lake with only the sound of warblers and the wind in the

pinetrees. We looked forward to discovering some new country in the coming days.



Day 2

Our first full day found us clearing a major blow down that obstructed a steeper section of the trail into Virginia Lake. From Virginia Lake, the trail leading into the South Loop breaks off from the portage that heads west to James Lake. The junction comes shortly after the beginning of the trail, at the base of a steep section. There we headed south towards a small waterfall and followed the trail up a gentle slope as it led along a wetland to the put in at a small beaver dam on Canton Lake. Just the slightest breeze from the north wrinkled the water's surface as we paddled the east shore of this small lake hemmed in by pine and black spruce.

We located the trail into Wendaban Lake (260m) in the southern bay. We brushed and cleared blow down as the trail gently rose and fell to Wendaban Lake.

Wen-da-ban was a prominent conjuror or spiritualist from Bear Island who also was known to trade furs for flour. He lived in a log cabin on Lady Evelyn Lake near Sucker Gut Lake. Robert Bell of the Geological Survey of Canada used Wen-da-ban's knowledge of the area and his maps in his 1880 survey of Temagami. The lake itself beckons you with its granite domes thrusting upwards to the sky, showing evidence of the earth's creative forces. There is the potential for some campsites along the eastern shore. As we carried on we located the nastawgan to Red Dragonfly Lake in the southwestern corner of the lake. The trail was brushed and cleared of blow down and courses a distance of 420m. There is a short section at the end of this carry that travels along the shoreline to a high water put in.

Our home for the next two nights was a campsite on a point located along the eastern shore of Red Dragonfly across from a large island. A great base, for our trail

rehabilitation work to Chicot, the unnamed and Stiles Lakes, the campsite suitable for two to three tents, showed evidence of minimal use. Nestled in a stand of red pine, it had a smooth granite dock to cradle a canoe or for lying on your back to take in the night sky.

The evening found me alone and exploring the dried up creek bed that lies just south of the campsite. I walked the smooth boulders avoiding leaving any footprints in this pristine environment. I veered to the west and followed the contour of a knoll studying the byway of the forest dwellers. As the light was fading I turned back for camp.



Day 3

The trail to Chicot Lake (950m) was located with a careful eye on the far western shore of Red Dragonfly Lake just west of the large island. The trail's first step is steep and slippery. Shortly the trail levels off and you will encounter a dry pond, stay to the left (south) and follow the marked trail for roughly 150m until you come to the next pond. We walked on the north side of this pond to the far side where we flagged the trail up an incline. As you level off you will walk out of the forest path into a bog. We stopped and observed the condition of the ground to determine the best route. We followed a faint trail through the vegetation that the centuries have left to build up in this cool microhabitat. As we were moving slowly to stay the course we came across a slightly faded piece of flagging tape on a small black spruce. Evidence that we are following the path of recent travelers. We worked at a comfortable pace clearing and brushing as we made our way along the trail. As we neared the three quarters mark of the trail, Mike noticed what appeared to be an overgrown tote road. My research indicated that the Murphy Lumbering Company operated in the area up until the late forties. We found several large stumps scattered in the forest, with many large red and white pine standing guard. Modern harvesting practices would decimate the remaining forest scarring the historical and sacred essence of the area, robbing future generations of this old growth. We continued on until we arrived at Chicot Lake where we rested from our labors.



It feels good to be back in the canoe and enjoying the perfect weather, as we make our way north on Chicot Lake. Scanning the shoreline we walked up into the forest to look at some huge trees that the lumberman's axe spared. Listening I could hear the music being pitched high in the tufts of the pines as they have done for ages. Back on the water we passed some large boulders in the water that mark the way into the narrow bay in the northeast end of the lake. Here we found the portage heading to the unnamed lake. Three logs lying in the shallow water make for a rock free landing. The trail starts off straight and appears well trodden by animals for the first 60-80 meters. We cleared some blow down and brushed and marked the rest of the trail that measures 350 meters. As you near the end of the trail you are afforded a good view of the unnamed lake from a high point before dropping steeply along side of the hill to the waters edge.

The lake is ringed with iron oxide stained rocks and like all the lakes in this area is very clear. There is the potential for a campsite near the flat rocks in the northeast section of the lake on the western shore near where the portage leads to Stiles Lake.

The trail to Stiles was located on Chicot with weathered logs lying in the water once again to mark the landing. We expected and did find the trail in rough shape from the report given by C_Mel from their spring trip through the Cantons. We cleared the blow down that choked the trail and did some brushing. The trail must be negotiated with care in sections as the lichen covered rocks and depressions can make for an ankle-twisting experience. The portage runs parallel to a ridge. Here you will see large chunks of rock that have fallen from the fortified wall that rises above the trail. We were tempted to follow a path near the Stiles Lake end of the portage that climbed its way up the elevation for an eagle's view but decided to head back to camp. We enjoyed a refreshing swim and the comfort that comes from a good day's travel. The evening was topped off with a good meal and lightening of the wine skin. A perfect ending to a great day.

Day 4

We packed up camp and left the beautiful Red Dragonfly Lake to head to Bob Lake. We

did a little more flagging and finished measuring the rehabilitated portages before setting off onto Stiles Lake. Investigating an old cabin on Log Lake, we found the place in a total mess both inside and out. To the rear of the cabin a well worn road lead back to the logging road.

This evening on our way back from a paddle and exploration of the old logging ruins near Bob Lake we were fortunate to hear the wolves howl. Our thoughts as we sat beside the fire turned to future trips and the Changing of the Seasons celebration at Obabika Lake.

Notes:

Map Obabika Lake 1:50 000 41 P/1

This route was well traveled by us with the portages between Red Dragonfly and the unnamed lake walked seven times by each of us and from the unnamed lake to Stiles five times each. It is not my usual practice to use flagging tape but we used it extensively especially on the trail from Red Dragonfly to Chicot. You can expect the tape to last for approximately five years.

The bog section on the trail from Red Dragonfly to Chicot displayed a large amount of animal tracks.

All the lakes were in pristine condition.

All measurements were done by rope.

Logging roadwork is underway (culverts, grading) to the south of these lakes outside of the Bob Lake Conservation Reserve as reported to us by the pilot.

- [Annual General Meeting Roundup](#)

Monday, 22 November 2010 00:00



By Harold Keevil

Another successful year was celebrated at the FOT Annual Meeting in Temagami. Guest speaker Craig Macdonald, who spent 26 years creating the Historical Map of Temagami's Traditional Canoe Routes (published in 19xx), kept members spellbound with his stories of the Map's creation and his research with local Elders and others.

This work could not be duplicated today, and is the foundation on which the FOT is developing its new, updated map. To that end, proofing by members continued in the backcountry this past year, and the prototype map is nearing completion and looks fantastic.

Bob Olajos was awarded Member of the Year distinction to recognize his hard work in preparing for and meeting with the MNR and Forestry Companies in the ongoing battle to protect these canoe routes. The FOT believes strongly in informed dialogue rather than confrontation, and the hard work of Bob and others has resulted in the protection of many of our backcountry gems. That work is ongoing, and it was heartening to see that the membership is growing in numbers and experience.

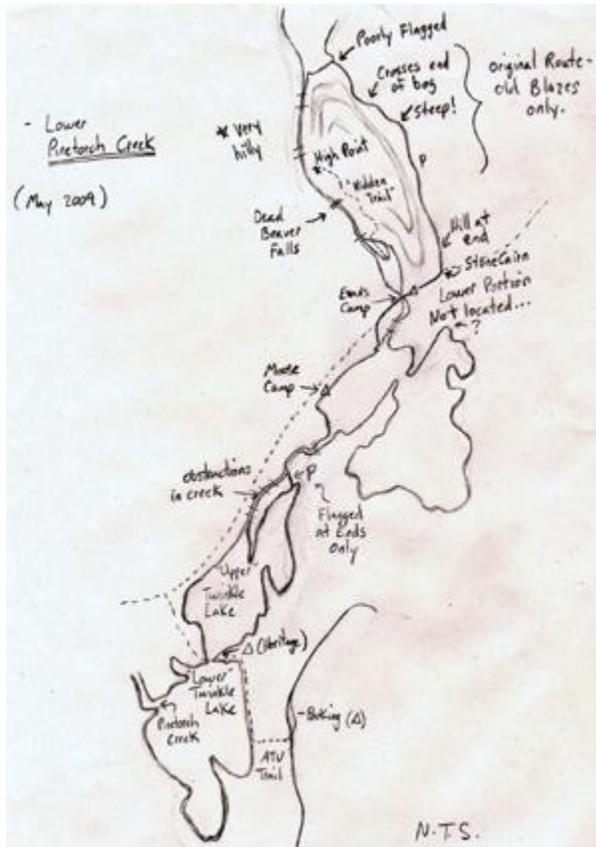
Mike McIntosh's slideshow on his many canoe trips included a mouthwatering theme of gourmet dining in the bush. It got me so hungry I went back for a second helping of Alex's moose chili. Bill Buchan shared his research into the surprisingly numerous pictographs and petroglyphs in the area. It was fun to learn more about the interesting

meaning behind some of these pictographs.

It was another perfect weekend in Temagami.

- The Route Less Traveled

Tuesday, 30 March 2010 14:08



By: Chris Melanson

I have been considering many of the so-called “lost routes” in Temagami for quite a few years now. It is one of the region’s great attractions that a few untrammelled areas have managed to somehow endure, despite the constant pressure of development, access and extractive land-use. It is a particularly rare thing in this day and age, that one may yet take a treasure map and embark upon a mission of high adventure, filled with questions, unknowns about The Land and mysteries of the past.

Lest anyone construe that The Land is traversed in routes just waiting to arise from 50 or 150 years of growth, be assured that this is not the case. There are yet a few routes though, that with a bit of time and patience, sweat and suffering, may yet be found. It is with some reluctance, and perhaps a bit of selfishness, that I compose this. But it has come to light recently, perhaps in part due to my own actions, that there seems to be a renewed interest in this type of activity. Please don't not infer from this writing that I am

in any way an expert in the art of way-finding, for this is certainly not the case. In fact, had it not been for the GPS, I would have lost both my canoe and duffle, and probably myself, on some bit trail that was in fact not.

However, in spite of whatever else is lacking, I would like to relay the following notes: This is not a game for those who are planning a typical backcountry style canoe trip. The route will be very difficult, obscure at best and the way-makers may have long fallen away to age, growth or the boot of industrial man. Camping may be very poor and improvisation will be required and one may have to make do with whatever is at hand. One should also be willing to spend days looking for that trail; trying either end, and if neither reveals the path – be willing to make your way through with gentle respect for The Land. Look closely for those way markers and be wary of “turning-trees,” flag and re-flag as required and go back to remove what is not essential to navigation. Be willing to throw away hours or days, mark softly and walk softly. The trail will be where it needs to be, not where you think it should be or where any map says it is.

The last thing that anybody should want is to see a historic route become trashed, lost to a hastily pushed line, or graphitized in unnecessary blazes and miles of flagging tape. Best to leave it alone, should that be your intent, skill or allotted time available for such a task.

This is not an activity for the brash, the impatient or those interested in “doing the distance.” Nor will there be any glory waiting on the other side. For those plan-makers and bureaucrats that have become somehow entrusted with The Land may very well ignore your efforts, refute the validity and importance of your discovery and dismiss all of your concerns due to an apparent lack of lineage and for their own convenience. However, all is not lost on this end: that part of the trail still lies before us...

- [Grant offers Timmins mill up for sale](#)

Monday, 29 March 2010 14:57

Friday Mar 26, 2010

By Timmins Times

Grant Forest Products is offering the Timmins oriented strandboard mill for sale and has advertised for tenders.

This follows the fact that Grant applied last June for protection from its creditors under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act in order to have time to restructure.

So far, Grant has arranged for the sale of its Englehart plant, but not the Timmins operation, located on Highway 101 West. It's the same plant where unionized workers

have been locked out since September 2006.

Georgia-Pacific, the American firm bidding to buy the Englehart operation has indicated it has no interest in the Timmins plant.

The deadline for submission of offers for the Timmins plant is next Wednesday, March 31, which the company says it may decide to extend.

Interested parties will have to contact Ernst & Young, which is acting as the Monitor for the creditors arrangement.

The advertisement says "the Timmins mill is located on approximately 300 acres of land and historically has operated as an oriented strandboard facility. The Timmins mill could also provide an attractive opportunity for alternative uses. Any transaction will be subject to the approval of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice."

- [Thunder boxes for Temagami](#)

Thursday, 25 March 2010 13:50

Contributed by: Andy Kerr-Wilson

The Environmental Studies Project of Carleton Place High School continues to put their best "footprint" forward on their June canoe to the Temagami Region. Over the last six years, CPHS Enviro students have worked to reduce their impact during their annual canoe trip by installing box latrines, aka 'Thunder boxes', on the campsites they use each year.

Since 1994 CPHS has been using a canoe route from Iceland Lake to River Valley as the culminating trip in senior high school program in resource management. Early on, staff and students began to notice the degradation of popular sites along the route and looked for ways to protect the quality of these special places.

Recognizing that they were part of the problem, students suggested installing box latrines along the route. It was a direct action. They could do it on the trip, and it benefited all users. Plans were obtained from OMNR and materials from two local suppliers of white cedar. The boxes were prefabricated in the CPHS wood-working shop and then assembled on site. Each year, students would select a site to "upgrade" and the box would be installed in a spot selected to protect water quality from contamination by human waste. By returning to the sites each year, the class has been able to

maintain the boxes and even reposition them necessary.

This year CPHS has obtained funding support for the project from FLOW (For the Love of Water) R4R Water Actions Projects (<http://r4r.ca/en/project-flow>). Flow will be assisting the students with material and gas costs.

[Forest Management Planning - Update](#) Thursday, 25 March 2010 13:45

Sudbury Forest

Friends of Temagami continue with the public review to improve the 2010-2020 Sudbury Forest Management Plan. The northeastern portion of the Sudbury Forest includes Chiniguchi Park, the upper Sturgeon River, and the Solace Wildlands.

Three FOT representatives, Chair of Forests Committee Bob Olajos, Treasurer, Ed MacPherson, and President, Alex Broadbent met with MNR and Vermillion Forest Management representatives on February 12. We presented concerns about inadequate protection for overgrown historic trails, a huge 5000-plus hectare clearcut adjacent to the Sturgeon River and Solace Provincial Parks, five unrecognized canoe routes, and a shortfall of NRVIS (Natural Resources Values Information System) inventory for campsites and viewpoints.

MNR Sudbury District Manager Ed Tear issued a decision on the issue on March 10. We are currently reviewing his decision and are considering whether to pursue the matter with the Northeast Regional Director.

Temiskaming Forest

FOT is also participating in the public consultation of the 2011-2021 Timiskaming Forest Management Plan. The Timiskaming Forest stretches from Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Park to Lake Abitibi, and includes the Makobe River and Montreal River Parks.

Three FOT representatives, Chair of Forests Committee Bob Olajos, Treasurer Ed MacPherson, and Board member Viki Mather attended the Review of Proposed Operations Open House last November. They spoke at length with MNR and industry foresters, stressing the importance of ecological integrity for protected areas, ecological corridors to the northern Boreal forest, and protection for canoe routes and historic trails.

The Draft FMP is expected to be released soon. We expect to proceed to Issue Resolution on these matters after reviewing the Draft Plan.

- [Reel Paddling Film Festival](#)

Tuesday, 09 March 2010 03:09

<http://www.reelpaddlingfilmfestival.com/>

From the site:

About RPF World Tour

Rapid Media's 5th annual Reel Paddling Film Festival showcases the world's best paddling films to audiences in Canada, United States and around the world. The festival inspires more people to explore rivers, lakes and oceans, push physical and emotional

extremes, embrace the lifestyle and appreciate the heritage of the wild places we paddle.

The Reel Paddling Film Festival is a film contest awarding winning films in nine categories. The winners and other shortlisted films are then toured to more than 75 cities around the world, screening for an audience of more than 20,000 outdoor adventure enthusiasts and their friends and families. The World Tour kicks off early February, check the tour schedule for a screening near you.

The World Tour is hosted by paddling shops, clubs and events (and the odd paddler for his 50th birthday party). Hosts usually sell tickets for their local screening and use the World Tour to generate preseason excitement, as a fundraiser or an evening's entertainment for a paddling event or festival.

The Reel Paddling Film Festival is produced by Rapid Media. Rapid Media also publishes four leading paddlesports magazines: Rapid, Adventure Kayak, Canoeeroots and Kayak Angler magazines. Your ticket to a Reel Paddling Film Festival World Tour stop includes a free one-year digital edition subscription to one of the above magazines. Special offer details are available in your evening program.

Enjoy the show.

- [Woodland Caribou Consultations - Stakeholder Workshops](#)

Friday, 26 February 2010 18:20

Environment Canada's **Canadian Wildlife Service** is developing a national recovery strategy for the woodland caribou, boreal population (hereafter referred to as boreal caribou). The purpose of this brief is to inform you of the process for preparing this strategy and to determine your interest in participating.

Woodland Caribou Consultations - Stakeholder Workshops:

- Toronto – Monday March 8, 2010 at the Ramada Plaza
- Thunder Bay – Friday March 12, 2010 at the Victoria Inn
- Dryden – Tuesday March 23, 2010 at the Holiday Inn
- Timmins – Thursday March 25, 2010 at the Days Inn

Please note: For the **Toronto and Thunder Bay** locations **please register by Wednesday March 3, 2010**. For the **Dryden and Timmins** locations **please register by Wednesday March 17, 2010**.

National Recovery Strategy Preparation The boreal caribou was listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act* as Threatened in 2003. The *Species at Risk Act* requires that a recovery strategy be completed for all threatened species, including boreal caribou. The national recovery strategy for boreal caribou will complement and enhance

conservation and protection efforts by provincial and territorial governments.

Recovery strategies are planning documents that identify what needs to be done to stop or reverse the decline of a species. The national recovery strategy for boreal caribou will set out national objectives and describe the research and management activities that are needed to help recover the boreal caribou. The national recovery strategy will also identify critical habitat for boreal caribou to the extent possible. Once critical habitat is identified, the federal, provincial, or territorial government must put in place measures to protect critical habitat from destruction.

Development of the national recovery strategy for boreal caribou will occur through a multi-stage process:

(1) Inform provinces, territories, Aboriginal people, and stakeholders of the consultation process. Give interested parties the opportunity to voice their opinions and provide input on key elements to develop the national recovery strategy including: threats to boreal caribou and its habitat, population and distribution objectives, habitat needs, and potential actions to maintain or recover local boreal caribou populations. This will occur through meetings, workshops, and other appropriate means. (Fall 2009 to Summer 2010)

(2) Ensuring Aboriginal traditional knowledge about boreal caribou informs the national recovery strategy. This will be done through various approaches including community workshops and interviews with key knowledge holders. (Fall 2009 to Summer 2010)

(3) Science studies on boreal caribou habitat requirements including local population range habitat descriptions, nationally consistent delineation of local population ranges, and a review of best management practices. (April 2009 to Dec 2010)

(4) Collaborative development of the national recovery strategy. This will include two main phases:

(a) Drafting by an Environment Canada-led recovery team with representatives from the provinces and territories, and Aboriginal representatives with wildlife management responsibilities; and

b) Review of the draft recovery strategy by three advisory groups with representatives from national environmental organizations and national industry associations, from national Aboriginal organizations, and from other affected federal government departments.

The collaborative development of the national recovery strategy will be informed by the consultations on key elements of the recovery strategy, Aboriginal traditional knowledge, and the scientific studies on boreal caribou habitat requirements. (Fall 2010 to Summer 2011)

(5) Posting the proposed national recovery strategy for boreal caribou on the Species at Risk Public Registry for a 60-day public comment period. (Summer 2011)

To Register:

Please send your name, contact information and date of workshop that you would like to attend to: sarah.hodgkiss@ec.gc.ca.

I encourage you to circulate this invitation to colleagues who may have an interest in the development of the national recovery strategy for boreal caribou.

I look forward to your participation in these consultation sessions.

Sincerely,

Susan Humphrey - Regional Director Canadian Wildlife Service-Ontario

4905 Dufferin Street Toronto, ON M3H 5T4

Consultations on the key elements of the national recovery strategy will be occurring across Canada. We will be hosting four workshops across Ontario in the coming month to provide interested stakeholders the opportunity to participate in these consultations. We invite you to attend one of the following stakeholder workshops (sessions start at 9:00am and will end by 3:00pm):

- [Sudbury FMP Issue Resolution](#)

Thursday, 18 February 2010 13:52

Update - FOT Issue Resolution on the 2010-2020 Sudbury Forest Management Plan

On February 12, FOT members Bob Olajos, Ed MacPherson and Alex Broadbent met with the MNR District Managers for North Bay and Sudbury, several MNR staff, Vermillion Forest Management representatives, and representatives of the Sudbury Local Citizens Committee. This was a second stage Issue Resolution meeting regarding FOT's concerns with the 2010-2020 Sudbury Forest Management Plan (FMP).

This FMP overlaps two MNR Districts in western Temagami, including the Sturgeon, Yorston, Pilgrim, Solace, Wanapitei, and Chiniguchi areas. FOT's issue resolution is based on the protection of historic trails, ecological integrity of protected areas, and canoe route values.

FOT and Vermillion both made strong presentations to the District Managers, who will issue a decision within the next month. If their decision is unacceptable to either party, then the issues may be appealed to the MNR's Northeast Regional Director.

An outline of FOT's presentation can be viewed below.

CLICK FOT PRESENTATION

- [Wine and Cheese Social](#)
Friday, 29 January 2010 19:37

Wine and Cheese Social

benefiting the Friends of Temagami

Host: [Friends of Temagami](#)

Type: [Party](#) - [Benefit](#)

Network: Global

Date: Friday, February 12, 2010

Time: 7:00pm - 10:00pm

Location: Bob & Anna Olajos' house

Street: 202 Kingsway Avenue

City/Town: North Bay, ON

Description

Please come to a wine and cheese social benefitting the Friends of Temagami. We are an all-volunteer environmental organization working to protect wilderness and promote human-powered recreation in Temagami. Special guests include Paul Chivers and Peter Quinby. Paul will present his slideshow, Wilderness Wanderings and Peter will talk about his new book, Ontario's Old Growth Forests.

As this is a fundraiser, we are asking for a "pay-what-you-wish" donation to the Friends of Temagami.

Please RSVP at email@friendsoftemagami.org

or confirm on facebook <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=328707188568#>

- [A View from Lake Temagami](#)

Thursday, 03 December 2009 19:58



Submitted by Dr. Paul Tamburro

Despite the misting rain and cold, my son Jack, his friend Harvey and I dragged our tails out of the warm cottage and headed to Kawishpakawg, better known as Highrock in our aluminum boat. When we arrived at the island there was a party of four canoes, all young girls about ten or eleven years old with two councilors, on a trip out of Northwaters making camp near the trailhead. I watched as the kids help adjust the tarp, gather wood, all the usual stuff. They were having a ball despite the lousy weather, hunched from their exertions waiting for the quesadillas warming on the fire.

The quesadillas sure smelled good, making us hungry too, but we headed up the trail after chatting with the trip leaders. It is a nice little hike and I highly recommend it. There are Anishnabe prayer flags along the way and on the summit there are a couple of family memorials to loved ones who enjoyed the spot. From the lookout there is a spectacular view of the hub of Lake Temagami. You can clearly see Camp Wabikon from here, which is another reason I noticed the campers. My daughter was at Wabikon at the time and out on a trip herself at that very moment. Not with the group we ran into, but she was somewhere else in the Southwest Arm of Lake Temagami with her own party.

My daughter sure loves camp. She loves the socializing, the crafts, the sailing and she loves the canoe tripping which in turn makes me happy. I am a little jealous also; I didn't go to camp when I was her age. My family thought it was crazy to pay good money to go to camp, eat peanut butter on white bread for lunch and sleep in a tent when you could be at a nice cottage and get three square meals a day. Luckily I figured out for myself the joys of canoe tripping and camping.

There are many renowned camps on Lake Temagami including the oldest children's camp in Canada. In addition campers from other parts of Ontario and the United States come to trip in Temagami. If you spend any time on or around Lake Temagami in the summer months you cannot help but notice the camper's presence. There are almost always gaggles of kids at the Mine Landing clustered in little groups, their canoes sitting

by the boat ramp as they prepare to head out. Or barges loading supplies to take to the base camps on the islands. Invariably on boat rides we will pass groups of canoes and we will always try to keep our distance not to swamp them waving as we go by. These same camps made their mark in the backcountry maintaining portages and keeping historic routes open before wilderness canoeing became a popular recreational activity.

It is wonderful to see these camps introducing kids from Ontario and all over the world to the joys of the outdoors, the wilderness and Temagami. Many of them continue to return long after their youth camp days are over. I am so very glad to see Temagami making new friends.

- [FOT responds to the plight of La Vase Portages](#)

Thursday, 19 November 2009 18:31

In response to a proposed 21 year mining claim lease by an aggregate extraction development, Friends of La Vase Portages have formally requested the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines & Forest review the proponent application.

La Vase Portages supporters are concerned that the mining claim is intended to tie up the property for 21 years without public input and full consideration of proposed conservation plans for the historic canoe route area.

The claim area in question is the last remaining undeveloped section of the historic La Vase Portages canoe route. We believe this heritage site deserves strong public protection and conservation rather than the destruction of a cultural landscape that increased quarrying activity would bring to the area.

For more information: <http://www.lavaseportages.com/index.html>

Friends of Temagami responds to this important issue today with a letter to Minister Gravelle.

Minister Michael Gravelle

Ministry of Northern Development, Mines & Forestry

Whitney Block

5630 - 99 Wellesley St W

Toronto, Ontario

M7A 1W3

Re: proposed mining / aggregate extraction along La Vase Portages, North Bay

Dear Minister Gravelle,

Friends of Temagami (FOT) is a northeastern Ontario-based, not-for-profit organization founded in 1995 by citizens concerned about the natural, cultural and recreational values of the greater Temagami area.

FOT is concerned to hear that increased mining and aggregate extraction that is being proposed along the historic La Vase Portages voyageur canoe route in North Bay will permanently mar and distract from this national landmark. To this end, I would like to share a unique and successful solution that was developed when the Lake Temagami area faced similar concerns:

Establishment of the Lake Temagami Skyline Reserve, a mutually developed policy by industry and private property owners whereby anyone using or travelling on Lake Temagami and its portage trails would be spared the sight of any development below the ridgeline of the mainland shoreline.

This agreement that was recognized and strengthened by Government in the 70's and 90's allowed for the natural beauty of the area to be preserved for future generations while still allowing controlled access to the area for mining and forestry.

La Vase Portages are regarded by canoeing organizations across the country as one of the most historic and significant height of land portages in Canada and it deserves strong and significant protection by the Province of Ontario for future benefit of all of the people of Ontario.

We expect you have already heard of the importance First Nation people of the area have placed to a route called Joschkeewanicamingue; one of the first points of contact when Europeans entered Northern Ontario. Places like La Vase Portages offer a unique and special opportunity to recognize and protect a shared history between First Nation and European communities and how they built Canada from the backbone of the Voyageur route and the fur trade industry.

Although this specific issue is outside our area of concern, the implications of the decisions and actions taken are of great concern to us. FOT strongly support the goals of increased protection and waterway park designation for La Vase Portages and encourage the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry to take a leadership role in conserving this historical canoe route rather than seeing it lost to compromise.

Sincerely,

Alex Broadbent, President

Friends of Temagami

CC:

Minister Gravelle ndmminister@ontario.ca

Minister Smith msmith.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Chris Mayne chris@maynetravel.com

- [MNR Back Country Maintenance Program - 2009](#)

Monday, 09 November 2009 19:03

Friends of Temagami is a committee member of the **Crown Land Recreation Facility Maintenance Partnership**: A single maintenance partnership with multiple stakeholders who have significant stake in resumption of Crown land recreation maintenance and who support its resumption. FOT's participation is an integral part of this initiative and our input into work planning and priority setting is an important part of the annual process. The partnership assists in the development and delivery of Crown land recreation facility maintenance within a portion of the overall Temagami Management Area.

The follow report is the MNR's summary of this seasons achievements and work

performed. FOT appreciates the hard work done by everyone employed through this program.

Acknowledgements: This year's back-country crews are to be commended for their dedication and hard work. MNR received many positive comments from the public about these individuals and their efforts. Crew members include Alison Smith, Steve Lewis, Amanda Jewell, Andrew McLean (Crown Land); and Ontario Parks' crews: Kirk MacKinnon and Abi Max (Finlayson PP); Dave Ward and Lucas Beaver (Samuel D. Champlain PP)

Start Date: June 01, 2009

End Date: September 07, 2009

Primary Objectives: Maintenance and data collection of portages and designated campsites in the Temagami Crown Land Maintenance Zone 1, including the 5 interior Provincial Parks.

Table A: 2009 Trip Summary:

Trip	Date	Portages Maintained	Campsites Maintained	Boat Caches	Parties Contacted	Peo Conta
1.MakobeRiver	01-06-09	12	7	0	0	0
2.Solace	30-06-09	23	3	3	0	0
3.Sunnywater	05-07-09	7	2	0	2	14
4.Whitepine	05-07-09	2	9	0	0	0
5.LadyEv-Sucker	10-07-09	0	52	2	4	37
6.N.LadyEvRiver	14-07-09	20	17	1	5	15
7.Tem-NE.Arm	19-07-09	0	31	0	1	2
8.TemRiverPP	19-07-09	?	?	?	?	?
9.SturgeonRiver	21-07-09	19	18	1	0	0
10.ThievingBear	21-07-09	?	?	?	?	?
11.RedSquirrel	26-07-09	1	14	0	2	4

12.LowerGoose	28-07-09	0	1	0	0	0
13.Ishpatina	29-07-09	15	6	0	8	34
14.Wakimika	04-08-09	9	11	0	4	12
15.Herridge	04-08-09	1	0	0	0	0
16.Diamond\Bob	05-08-09	7	24	0	0	0
17.MapleMtn	09-08-09	1 trail	0	0	0	0
18.LadyEvCrown	09-08-09	0	27	0	6	46
19.ObabikaLake	12-08-09	4	29	0	9	29
20.Wasaksina	17-08-09	3	7	0	3	5
21.ObabikaSite	18-08-09	0	1	0	0	0
22.Hangstone	18-08-09	13	16	1	0	2
23.AnimaNip.	19-08-09	3	16	1	10	25
24.Treth\Grays	20-08-09	18	5	1	4	4
25.LadyEvLake	22-08-09	0	11	0	0	0
26.Lenore	25-08-09	1	0	0	2	5
27.SolaceLUP's	26-08-09	?	?	8	?	?
28.Treth\Makobe	26-08-09	8	14	1	0	0
29.CrossLake	01-09-09	6	32	2	4	7
30.KokokoLake	03-09-09	4	5	0	0	0
31.FlorenceLake	04-09-09	2	11	1	2	4
Total	31	179	369	22	66	259

Table B: Comparison: 2008 vs 2009 Season

Year	Dates Season	Portages Maintained	Campsites Maintained	Parties Contacted	People Contacted
2008	May15-Se11	171	382	46	176
2009	Jun01-Se07	179	369	66	259
2009 Difference	-21 days	+8	-13	+20	+83

General Comparison of 2008 and 2009 Interior Maintenance Program

The 2009 program was significantly shorter than the previous 2008 season, yet crews accomplished about the same amount of maintenance. And, thanks to a concerted effort by backcountry crews, more visitors were contacted than the previous year.

Visitor Interactions:

Again this year, contact with users was positive. Crews made a special effort to interact with all users. Education about backcountry ethics and responsible travelling in the interior was emphasized and was generally well received. People were pleased to see MNR in the backcountry, and were grateful for the work we were doing. Generally, users were most appreciative of the thunder-boxes and the cleared, well-signed portages. Some users expressed concerns with specific campsites (ie privies full, scattered tissues, garbage, etc) which were then given priority for maintenance by our crews.

One member of each crew was a designated Ontario Parks Warden, and enforcement and/or compliance was exercised within the park boundaries. Most travellers were in compliance, however several groups did not have camping permits. These groups were given the choice of receiving a fine, or purchasing the permits when finished their trips. In every case canoeists chose to pay for the permits, and in every case they complied with this arrangement. Some campers had more than the allowed 9 persons on a campsite. In an attempt to educate, and accepting their lack of awareness of this rule, they were given a warning and told to pass this information along to their camp directors.

Maintenance Concerns:

Portages: Most portages required cutting and clearing of blow-downs and widening of the trail. Yellow portage signs were installed at both ends and also at confusing intersections along the portages. Flagging tape or 'rock cairns' were sometimes used to lead users along the correct path, and incorrect sections were blocked-off or decommissioned. This year crews continued to improve and widen portages that had been maintained last summer. Portages that had not been

maintained in 2008 had complete inventory and digital GPS data collected, and subsequently entered into PIRA and the North Bay District data files.

Recommendations: Further brushing is required on many portages to widen the path. Portage signs seem to disappear from one year to the next, so signage must be annually monitored. Blow-downs will continue to need clearing. Continue GPS, and tombstone data collection on portages that have not received maintenance in 2008 or 2009. Document and report future maintenance in the Trip Reports.

Campsites (Privies): Most of the properly built and installed privies were functioning well. These privies were treated with Septo-Clean to reduce the waste and prolong the life of the existing hole. Some were too full and were relocated with a new hole in a nearby location. Any unacceptable privy structures with a variety of designs, were removed and destroyed. Inappropriate location, poor construction, absence of a hole, damage to living trees, and accessibility to vectors were some of the reasons for removal of these installations. Approximately 40 new installations of MNR-built privies were made throughout the interior on designated campsites that met the standards of appropriate privy site conditions.

Recommendations: Continue to install proper privies on campsites with appropriate locations and conditions to meet Ontario Parks standards. Monitor and take action to eliminate inappropriate privies when they are discovered. Continue with a regular maintenance program of treatment using Septo-Clean, or another environmentally acceptable product to reduce the mass, to increase the longevity of these privies. Continue GPS, and tombstone data collection on privies not previously identified. Document and report privy maintenance as completed.

Campsites (Garbage): As observed in previous years, the more accessible campsites had the most litter. As we travelled further into the back-country, the amount of garbage decreased. Cross Lake has a chronic garbage problem which can likely be attributed to a few thoughtful individuals. Lake Temagami and Lady Evelyn Lake have manageable garbage problems that can be addressed with annual clean-ups. Anima Nipissing Lake was remarkably clean this year. Very nice surprise. The more interior areas have garbage directly proportional to their ease of access. This makes cleanup somewhat easier in that our crews were able to drive a truck, or a large motor-boat to most of the messiest campsites.

Recommendations: Extraction of garbage will continue to be part of the annual tasks, however MNR presence and ongoing education of the public will hopefully reduce the magnitude of this problem.

MNR needs to pursue partnership opportunities for clean-up of larger Front Country "thunder lakes" (ie large motor boat lakes). Partners may include youth camps, lakes associations, municipalities, outfitters, and any other interested groups or individuals. All clean-up work needs to be documented and put on file.

Campsites (Environmental Impact): Damage to trees with axes and nails was observed at every site. Compaction of the soil was prevalent on the more popular sites. Many sites had numerous stumps from live trees that were cut for fuel-wood. The heavily used sites have little readily accessible fuel-wood and required importing fuel from off the site.

Recommendations: Continued monitoring of heavily used and damaged sites is required. MNR needs to support campsite rotation to reduce the on-site impact. This would require creation of some new campsites in high use areas, which would then allow temporary or permanent closure of over-used sites.

Boat Caches: This year crews inventoried all boat caches encountered on trip. Inventory included collecting GPS coordinates, completion of data collection sheets, and photographs. Effort was made to identify the owners of the boats for future management actions. MNR tags or notices to the boat owners were not given out in the field at this time. In some cases, too many boats are cached (ex. 32 boats at Whitewater Lake). Other lakes have garbage concerns (ex. Spawning Lake). And at others, boats are abandoned or sunken, sometimes with motors still attached (ex. Eileen Lake, Florence Lake, Trethewey Lake).

Recommendations: Within *Provincial Parks*, notice needs to be given to the owners of these unauthorized boats, to have them removed within a reasonable time. On *Crown Land*, a strategy needs to be developed to limit or eliminate boat caches, and/or at least make users responsible for care and clean-up of these areas.

Designated Lookouts: All designated lookouts were inventoried, and information was captured digitally, and entered in Parks or Crown data bases.

Land Use Permits (LUPs): There are 133 LUPs on Crown Land in Zone 1, both inside and outside Provincial Parks. LUPs in the remote backcountry were inspected as encountered along the canoe routes. This inspection data was entered into Parks and North Bay District data bases.

Recommendations: LUPs in areas not covered this year will be inspected in the future.

UNAUTHORIZED Activities:

All unauthorized activities such as Occupations (U.O.s), trails and roads, structures, fuelwood cutting, motorized vehicle activity, hunting, excessive camping (>21 days), dumping, etc. were noted and reported.

Enforcement Concerns:

Camping in excess of 21 days, Unauthorized Occupations, damage to the environment, leaving garbage (littering), camping in a Provincial Park without a permit, and having more than the allowed 9 persons per campsite, are all concerns our crews encountered in 2009.

Recommendations: Enforcement presence (Park Wardens and C.O.s) and continued effort by our Interior Rangers to educate the public, will help to address these concerns. Document and report all occurrences.

Fish & Wildlife:

Crews made note of interesting or unusual wildlife encounters during their trips. Bald Eagles seemed to be of great abundance this year, although no active nests were found. Few moose were observed, and bears did not seem to be bothering anyone this summer. Spruce Grouse seemed as abundant as Ruffed Grouse. Some interesting snakes and turtles were seen briefly, but positive identification could not be made. One Lynx was observed by Amanda Jewell in Shiningwood Bay, and a Bobcat was caught and released from a duck-banding trap by Mike Regis (the cat ate some ducks). Few trout were angled in the 'Trout Streams', but many Yellow Perch were found in these waters.

MNR Working with our Partners

As this is the second year of MNR's Interior Crown Land Maintenance Program, it is becoming evident that working more efficiently with our Partners will be necessary for the success of this work.

Our crews are not able to effectively maintain this vast network of canoe routes alone. A strategy is needed to engage the participation of interested users of this resource.

Specifically, MNR needs to pursue partnership opportunities for clean-up of larger Front Country "thunder lakes" (ie large motor boat lakes). Partners may include youth camps, lakes associations, municipalities, outfitters, and any other interested groups or individuals. All clean-up work needs to be documented and put on file.

Efforts will be made to work closer with other interested user-groups and individuals.

- [Ontario Enjoys second lowest fire season in 50 years](#)

Friday, 06 November 2009 17:12

Friday Nov 06, 2009

By Sootoday.com

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources aviation and forest fire management branch reports that provincially, the 2009 forest fire season was the second lowest recorded number of forest fires in Ontario in the past 50 years.

The lowest year on record was 2008.

The total number of fires this season was 384, burning 20,656 hectares of land.

The 2009 fire season officially ended on October 31 and was close behind the 2008 forest fire season in Ontario which had 341 fires burning 1,316 hectares.

The ten year average number of forest fires in Ontario is 1,160 burning 108,337 hectares.

These low activity seasons are mostly the result of cool, wet weather which helps

reduce the chance of fires spreading from outdoor fires that people set, and reduces the chance of ignition due to lightning strikes.

The fire response system in Ontario is designed to expand and scale back according to the fire danger so it is always operating in an efficient manner.

As an emergency fire response resource for Ontario, as well as other provinces in Canada and also the United States the ministry always has to be prepared to respond immediately to protect people, their property and industrial values.

This requires maintaining a highly trained workforce and ongoing research and development to constantly improve fire response techniques and equipment.

Record setting levels of support to another fire jurisdiction were provided this year with dispatches of personnel and equipment to British Columbia which had a very active fire season from the end of July through to mid-September.

- [AGM Guest Speaker and Presentation](#)

Friday, 09 October 2009 14:43

Friends of Temagami are very pleased to introduce our Annual General Meeting - Guest Speaker and Presentation.

A photographic discovery of the lost canoe routes of Temagami by Paul Chivers.

To be held Saturday evening in the Gathering Hall at Smoothwater Lodge.

There has been a lot of talk and interest in the ancient and lost canoe routes of the Greater Temagami District. Among the hundreds of lost routes, the Pilgrim and Yorston area have been of particular interest as of late due to pressure of forestry operation that are being scheduled in the recent forest management plans and long term management directions as laid out in the Temagami and Sudbury Forest Management Units. Paul Chivers has explored much of this remote area and ventured into the wilds off the beaten track and into the routes of Historic Map of Temagami. Paul will be presenting his views and findings accompanied with the visions captured with his camera. Don't miss this unique opportunity to accompany Paul on the route less travelled.



Paul Chivers Bio

Paul Chivers has canoed and photographed throughout the Temagami region for almost 25 years. The photojournalist and photography instructor nurtures a passion for 'lost' and off the beaten track canoe routes. His extensive research shows that more than 10,000 km of documented canoe routes and undetermined distances of undocumented routes lie within 100 miles of his North Bay home. The seminal canoeing destinations of Temagami, Algonquin and Kipawa lie within that circle, along with countless rivers, creeks and lake routes.

Paul's photojournalism work has been published in most major newspapers throughout Canada and many in the United States. His nature photography has been used by conservation groups and published in numerous magazines, books, and other publications. Freelance work has been published in many trade magazines, brochures, posters, and other promotional materials. Paul has received many awards for both photojournalism and nature photography.

- [FOT Annual General Meeting 2009](#)
[Changing of the Seasons Ceremony 2009](#) Friday, 25 September 2009 18:02



The 8th annual Changing of the Seasons Ceremony recently held on Obabika Lake was a huge success.

Sixty people gathered for the fall celebration on the traditional Misabi Family territories hosted by Family Head, Alex Mathias.

This year was marked by the return of many familiar faces from past gatherings including seven original Red Squirrel Road Blockaders. Also of note was the participation of Alex's friends and neighbors from the area serviced by Hwy 805, in particular Emerald Lake. About a dozen children of various ages took time out from play to listen to the stories and speak their names as the feather was passed to them to speak their truth.

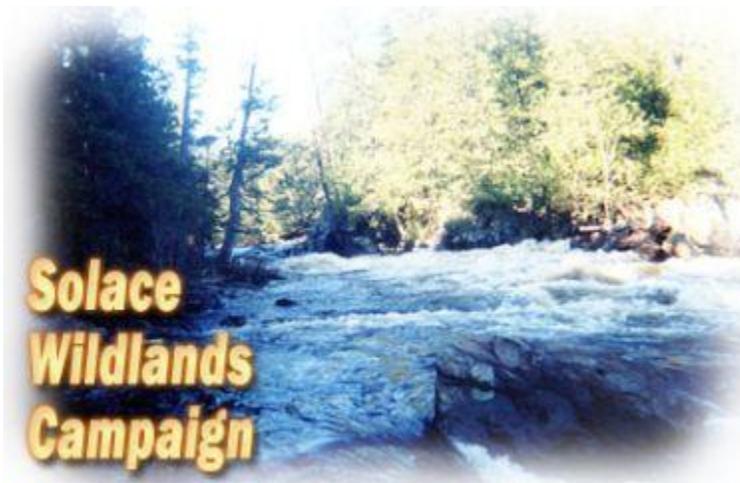
The proceedings were led this year by Alex. Alex explained the importance of the observance of seasons and told stories of his life as a youth on Obabika Lake and his eventual return to live by more traditional means. He also spoke of the struggle for justice the Temagami people have had from the early days of Europeans discovering the continent that still continue unsettled in the courtrooms of today.



The observances were followed by a traditional feast, guided hikes through the Old Growth Forest leading to Spirit Rock and a non-traditional beach sauna.

- [FOT Responds to Sudbury FMP](#)

Tuesday, 15 September 2009 14:21



In reaction to the Sturgeon River Crossing Proposal as part of the Sudbury Forest Management Plan, FOT has responded with three letters that address our concerns.

FOT has reviewed the proposal in depth and has concluded that a new crossing would negatively effect the Park. The principle behind our decision is the fact that this particular stretch of river is truly the last stretch of untouched wilderness in the Sturgeon River Waterway Park, and needs to stay that way.

<http://www.friendsofemagami.org/images/FOT-Sudbury%20FMP-Bridge%20Crossing.pdf>

Letter to Vermillion Forest Management (VFM) rejecting the Sturgeon River Crossing proposal. This is a short letter that doesn't provide a lot of detail about our actual reasons.

<http://www.friendsofemagami.org/images/FOT-Sudbury%20FMP-AOC.pdf>

Letter to VFM addressing all of our AOC, viewpoint issues and any other concerns related to the Sudbury FMP, separating the Sturgeon River proposal.

<http://www.friendsofemagami.org/images/FOT-Sudbury%20FMP-Teunissen.pdf>

Letter addressed to Ontario Parks (OP) serving notice to OP outlining our objections to the crossing in more detail in an effort to provide as much information as we can to OP to help them to develop counter arguments to the bridge proposal.

We are anticipating further communications in the coming months, we will keep members posted.

If there is an EBR for the new crossing, we will need member support. Keep watching! We'll send details when the time is right.

- [User Conflicts in the Temagami Area.](#)
Wednesday, 26 August 2009 17:18
by Ed MacPherson



In early May this year, I went into Yorston Lake planning to travel up the Yorston River to Talking Falls and then go into Mudchannel Lake and crossover into the Pinetorch Conservation Reserve. I arrived on Yorston Saturday, May 9th planning to stay for Sunday as well, before heading into Seagram Lake.

The area in and around Yorston, Linger and Seagram Lakes is classed as an Integrated Management Area, under the Temagami Land Use Plan. That means that many activities are allowed.....including logging, mining, hunting, fishing, motor boating, motorized camping, public motorized access, new motorized and non-motorized trail development etc, etc. So I was expecting to see some motorboats, ATVs, fishermen, maybe, remnants of past logging activities, etc.

Yorston at one time was a very pretty lake, but a fire in the NW corner has taken a toll on the landscape, that is now slowly coming back with new growth. Unfortunately the fire also wiped out the few campsites located on the islands in the upper narrows, such that there are only 2 campsites remaining in the north end of the lake.

As it was getting late and I was getting tired, I needed to locate a place to stay. I saw what looked like a site in the extreme NW corner of the lake. As I paddled closer it started to look even better, with an open grassy area, up a bit from the water, with a slide in beach area for a landing. I took it and got set up and had dinner without taking too much time to look around.

The following morning I was planning to locate the portage into Seagram Lake and do any clearing that it required. To get there I needed to walk along the ATV trail that runs just several meters behind the campsite. Oh what a sight it was. The ATV trail also has an open area that appears to have been used by some Moose Hunters, over a several



year period. Here is what I found:

Big wad of discarded plastic film balled up and left in the bush behind site. This thing is about 6 feet across, and about 6 feet tall making it hard not to see, even if you have



poor eyesight.

Collapsed lean-to with plastic covering laying on the ground. This will become the next big wad of plastic. Do you know how long it takes for this stuff to decompose? 30-40 years maybe. Better to remove it from the lean-to so that you can use the structure next year. That way the snow will not likely collapse it and you will not have to rebuild it. With less rebuilding to do, that would get you to your beer and moose hunting quicker also. I wouldn't really object to coming across a well constructed lean-to that had its cover removed when not in use and it was clearly going to be used by a group of hunters during the next season. There are many lean-to structures in the Temagami Area that are left standing from season to season in these Integrated Management



areas.

Abandoned rain gear. You have to ask why the owner would just leave it there and not carry it out on their ATV with the rest of their garbage when they leave, following the



hunt.

More discarded black plastic that looks as if it is covering some wood, for their expected return in the 2009 Moose Season. Fair enough you might say. Also, some other accoutrements in the background... a table and 2 grates, one large stainless steel grate, barely visible in the foreground... the hunters expect to return and these are capital goods that don't deteriorate readily. We all appreciate some well constructed furniture out there.....but not the



plastic.

In the foreground is a defunct toilet apparatus. The seat is no longer functional, yet it remains as an eyesore to other travelers. This must have been the original place to visit when you had to go. Hopefully it had a hole under it when in service.



This mess appears to be the Version 1 replacement apparatus for the above, broken chair style seat. Doesn't appear to have been a very successful construction. And what



an eyesore it is....

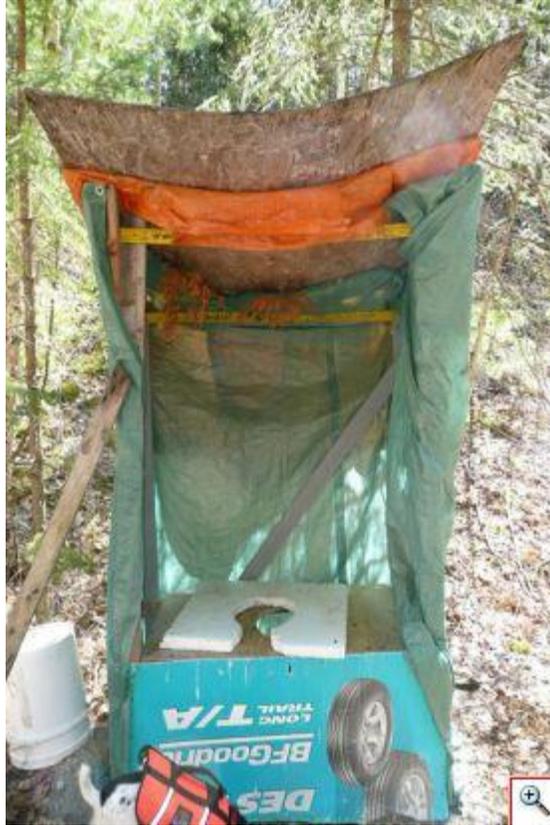
This appears to be Version 2. Again not too successful. Pepper my travel companion, is quite interested in these devices, sniffing at them extensively even though they haven't seen service in several or more



years.

But wait there is more.....this is Version 3. Still standing and apparently, still useable. It is still an eyesore and will continue to be an eyesore for many years following its demise if these Moose hunters leave it there.

I am becoming somewhat intrigued by these structures having seen them all over Temagami on my travels. Most of them are closed in with opaque plastic or non-descript wooden frames and boards. I think that must be so that no one can see you while you are doing your business. They are never taken down and removed just left in place to



rot awayslowly.

This next one is located on the East shoreline of the Sturgeon Provincial Waterway Park. Looks as if it was left behind by Moose hunters as well. As the area is accessed by an ATV trail running alongside the river with evidence of a large wall tent having been used as the hunt camp. The tent was removed but this eyesore was left behind.... For others to use? It is a very colorful one made from junk boards..... but somewhat better constructed than the ones on Yorston.



This is a very old privy located on an island on Maskinonge Lake. It hasn't been used in maybe 30-40 years. It was surrounded by a blue plastic tarp made with a coated reinforcing fabric typical of what you can buy in a Canadian Tire Store or other places. You can see some shards of the tarp hanging from the trees. I attempted to remove most of it, but some remains embedded into the tree trunks which have grown out



around the tarp material.

This next Privy is my favorite. We call it a Thunder Box. Made from Cedar or treated wood.... It blends well into the surrounding landscape making it less obtrusive than plastic film and colorful boards. It is easy to install using a shovel and a steel bar to facilitate the digging of a hole. When installed properly, over a suitable well dug hole, it will last for about 20 years and would therefore be useable for many hunting seasons. And with the cover lid up and used to block the view it becomes very private.

On Monday, Morning I was portaging into Seagram and as I returned to pick up my canoe, 4 ATVers came along the road, strung out a bit. Each one stopped for a few minutes to talk to me. They had been fishing at Pilgrim Creek and were moving over to Seagram Lake to try their luck there. They had all seen the remains of the Moose camp as they passed it and were disgusted. A couple of them were Moose hunters and said they did the lean-to thing as well but would never leave a mess like that behind.

The area is an Integrated Management Area open to all of us for our enjoyment. None of us has a right to leave our garbage laying around for others to have to deal with. It would be nice to see the area Conservation Officer go in there this Fall and get these guys to clean up their mess.

That's the way I see it.

- [MNR loses forestry](#)

- [Temagami Forests Under New Management](#)

Friday, 03 July 2009 18:56

"Forestry has been carved off to renew itself." said Minister Michael Gravelle, MPP Thunder Bay, referring to the recent transfer of Forest Management from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to the new Ministry of Northern Development Mines and Forestry (MNDMF).

This resource-based super Ministry has been facilitated to maximize forestry opportunities in Ontario. This is resting on the reputation of the former MNDM, a ministry that has been very successful and with ministry staff known to battle other departments for the best interest of the mining industry. Details have not been announced, including which files and responsibilities will move over to MNDMF and what roll MNR will play if any.

The political belief is that MNDMF, as with mining, must have the authority over forestry's guiding legislation, in this case the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA), forest management planning, industry relations, forest operations and related approvals processes.

Of concern for Friends of Temagami are the implications and potential to lessen the voice of concern for natural heritage and cultural values found within the forests of Temagami. Will public input still be considered valuable and relevant is the big question for Temagami recreationists and environmentalists. Will the newly appointed steward of the forests administer the forests of Temagami in a responsible and environmentally sustainable fashion that is fair for all the area stakeholders' interests?

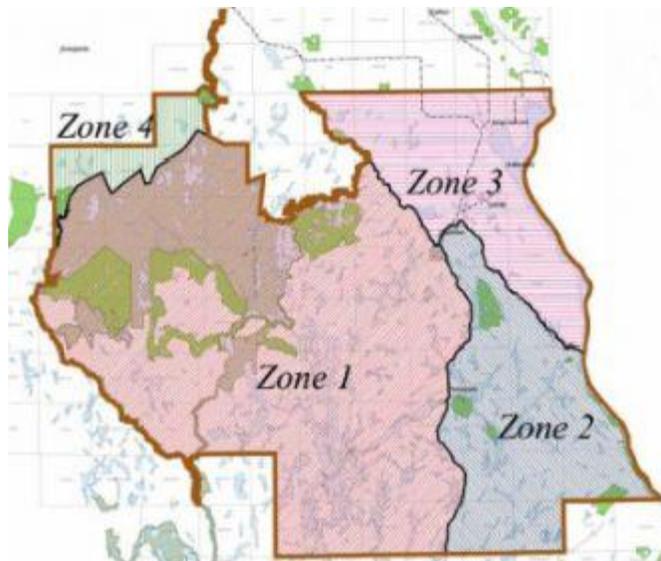
Though everyone is still awaiting more details, those across Northwestern Ontario with a direct stake in forestry are reacting favorably to having forestry under the direction of a local government minister who knows the industry. This is of course understandable as northern communities have been hit hard by the economic downslide.

The Ontario forest industry has spent decades ensuring the highest sustainable forestry standards in the world. The new economic development focus in the government is expected to promote and market that side of the forest industry now with a clear mandate to promote economic development and improve our competitiveness. All this is consistent with Premier McGuinty's promise to make the economy a priority and to make Ontario 'Open for Business'.

- [2008 MNR Crown Land Maintenance Report](#)

Friday, 17 April 2009 14:38

Friends of Temagami is a committee member of the **Crown Land Recreation Facility Maintenance Partnership**: A single maintenance partnership with multiple stakeholders who have significant stake in resumption of Crown land recreation maintenance and who support its



resumption.

The partnership assists in the development and delivery of Crown land recreation facility maintenance within a portion of the overall Temagami Management Area.

FOT's participation is an integral part of this initiative and our input into work planning and priority setting is an important part of the annual process.

The program led by the Ministry of Natural Resources hired four persons to carry out the work that ran last year from May 15, September 11, 2008. The objective was to: clear, clean, GPS and collect data regarding portages and campsites in Crown Land Maintenance Zone 1.

The MNR report outlines the findings and recommendations:

Portages Maintained	Campsites Maintained	Parties Contacted	People Contacted
171	382	46	176

Visitor Interactions:

Contact with users was positive. Most people were surprised to see MNR in the backcountry, and were grateful for the work we were doing. Some trippers were lost or having difficulty identifying the correct routes, and were happy to see us posting portage signs and widening the correct trails.

Maintenance Concerns:

Portages: Most portages required cutting and clearing of blow-downs and widening. Yellow portage signs were installed at both ends and also at confusing intersections along the portages. Flagging tape was sometimes used to lead users

along the correct path, and incorrect sections were blocked-off or decommissioned. As this was an unusually wet summer, some trails were completely flooded. Where appropriate, new sections of trail were cut to detour these areas. In some sections of excessive mud, log pathways were constructed to provide acceptable footing. **Recommendations:** Further brushing is required on many portages to widen the path. Portage signs seem to disappear from one year to the next, so signage must be annually monitored. Blow-downs will continue to need clearing. Continue GPS, and tombstone data collection. Document and report visits and any work done.

Campsites (Privies): Most of the properly built and installed privies were functioning well. Many of these, however, will need to be treated to reduce the mass, or will need to be relocated with a new hole in the near future. Many unacceptable privy structures with a variety of designs, needed to be removed and destroyed. Inappropriate location, absence of a hole, damage to living trees, and accessibility to vectors were some of the reasons for removal of these installations. MNR-built privies were installed in some of the more accessible locations. **Recommendations:** Install proper privies on campsites with appropriate locations and conditions to meet Ontario Parks standards. Monitor and take action to eliminate inappropriate privies when they are discovered. Initiate a regular maintenance program of treatment using an environmentally acceptable substance (ie SeptoClean) to reduce the mass, to increase the longevity of these privies. Continue GPS, and tombstone data collection. Document and report visits and any work done.

Campsites (Garbage): Generally, the more accessible campsites had the most litter. As we travelled further into the back-country, the amount of garbage decreased. However, some of the remote fly-in lakes had large amounts of debris. **Recommendations:** This makes cleanup somewhat easier in that our crews were able to drive a truck, or a large motor-boat to most of the messiest campsites. On the remote fly-in lakes, it may be logistically easiest to stockpile garbage in locations where a float-plane could extract this debris. Extraction of garbage will continue to be part of the annual tasks, however MNR presence and ongoing education of the public will hopefully reduce this problem. Continue GPS, and tombstone data collection. Document and report visits and any work done.

Campsites (Environmental Impact): Damage to trees with axes and nails was observed at every site. Compaction of the soil was prevalent on the more popular sites. Many sites had numerous stumps from live trees that were cut for fuel-wood. **Recommendations:** Continued monitoring of heavily used and damaged sites is required. Some campsites may require temporary or permanent closure to eliminate further degradation. Continue GPS, and tombstone data collection. Document and report visits and any work done.

Enforcement Concerns: Camping in excess of 21 days at a time, fisheries infractions, damage to the environment and camping in a Park without a permit are all concerns our crews encountered. **Recommendations:** Enforcement presence (Park Wardens and C.O.s) and continued effort by our Interior Rangers to educate the public,

will help to address these concerns. Document and report occurrences.

Acknowledgements: The 2008 back-country crews are to be commended for their dedication and hard work. MNR received many positive comments from the public about these individuals and their efforts. Crew members include Alison Smith, Steve Lewis, Nick Lees and Trevor Leveille.

- [Winter Trip Report](#)

Tuesday, 10 March 2009 13:38

Paradise Below Zero: Temagami Style

February 2009



 Chee-Skon-Abikong. I've always had a special connection with this little lake, nestled deep in the Temagami wilderness.

Although I had visited this area many times during the summer months, I had never had the opportunity to experience it during the winter, so I packed my bag, laced up the mukluks, and off I went, to experience Temagami under a blanket of snow.

The portage into Chee-Skon proved more difficult than I had expected. Of course, I knew it was mostly uphill, having walked it many times during the paddling season, but when the trail is obscured by a few feet of snow, it is even more challenging. Add to this challenge the fact that I was on snowshoes and carrying a 65lb pack and this trail had me stopping to catch my breath on more than one occasion. Numerous downed trees also slowed my progress, but this slow progress allowed me time to soak in the natural beauty of the surrounding forest. It's funny how a familiar place can appear so different

when covered with a heavy blanket of snow.

Before long, the lake came into view. Chee-Skon-Abikong, or "Place where the rock stands". This really is my favorite location in all of the Temagami backcountry, and it appeared even more beautiful in winter. I had intended on setting up camp somewhere deep in the bush to protect myself from the wind, but the sun was shining so bright, I couldn't help but set up on a nice South-facing point, halfway up the lake. I pitched the tent, gathered some firewood, and cooked up some grub, all while basking in the warmth of the mid-winter sun. Later, I made my bed on a thick layer of fresh balsam boughs and drifted off into a deep sleep for the night.

I spent the next few days hiking in the spirit forest, visiting spirit rock, and just tending to the seemingly endless list of chores that go along with winter



camping: gathering firewood, baking bannock, melting snow for drinking water, airing out the sleeping bag, and then gathering more firewood. It's been said that gathering firewood warms the winter camper 3 times: Once to gather it, once to cut it up, and finally, when you burn it. These days spent at Chee-Skon were relaxing, invigorating, and above all, peaceful. The serenity of the Spirit Forest has a calming effect on many people who are fortunate enough to spend a few days in it, and this has always been true in my case. The wind through the ancient pines, and the loud 'crack' of the lake ice were the only sounds to be heard for days.

On the morning of my planned departure from Chee-Skon, I awoke to a light snowfall. I'm always astounded by how quiet the forest is during a snowfall like this one. Absolute silence. I spent an hour or so sitting around the morning campfire, sipping cedar tea,

and just enjoying the peacefulness of this special area. As I packed up camp, the snow started to get heavier. I made my way across Chee-Skon and back downhill through the portage towards Obabika.

Upon reaching the shores of Obabika Lake, I was greeted with an almost blinding snowstorm, reducing visibility to under 1km. I questioned the intelligence of trying to cross such a huge body of water with such compromised visibility, and considered setting up camp at the Tall Pines campsite, and waiting out the storm. However, winter storms like this one have a tendency to hang around for days, so I decided to tackle the open expanse of Obabika during the snowstorm. Once out on the lake, the snowpack was firm underfoot, and my snowshoes became pointless. I quickly took them off, strapped them to my pack, and made the hike on foot. It felt comforting to be walking in moosehide mukluk-clad feet, the way generations of Anishnabai people have done all across this land. I kept the North shore of Obabika within sight, until the faint outline of the West shore became visible, then turned South towards the Mathias Family cabin.

I rounded the point at the mouth of the Obabika River, and made my way into the bay where the Mathias cabin is located. Alex invited me in, and offered me a bowl of freshly made rabbit stew for lunch. As is the case with all my trips in the Obabika Lake area, I had a nice visit with the Mathias family and experienced their warm Northern hospitality. A fitting end to my stay in Temagami.



Interestingly, the rabbit that had ended up in Alex's stew pot, had some good news to share with us; Alex was excited to show me the pelt from the rabbit – the white fur was already starting to turn brown. Alex assures me that this means an early spring is right around the corner, despite what that pesky groundhog says...

I'm already counting the days.

Mike McIntosh

- [Hike the Temiskaming Highland Trail from May 4th to 12th.](#)

Tuesday, 24 February 2009 19:47



Nastawgan Trails is holding its 5th annual end to end hike on the Ottawa - Temiskaming Highland Trail from May 4th to 12th. We are looking for participants who would like to join us on our journey along this magnificent trail. The trip, from Ottertail Creek at Lake Temiskaming to the Town of Latchford on Hwy #11, is about 100 km in length. The trail is rugged but clear, well marked and signed. Participants must be self contained, experienced backpackers in good physical condition; able to handle steep grades and elevation changes up to 600 ft. There are no bridges or walkways and streams must be forded. We will be arranging for a food cache at about day 6.

There are pdf preview maps and gpx trail tracks available at nastawgantrails.org (click 'Area Trails', click GPS at top of page). The guide book, *Discovering Wild Temiskaming*, by Murray & Vicky Muir is available at MEC

For more information contact:

Murray & Vicky Muir

705 648 3310

hikers@nastawgantrails.org

- [FOT scores in Forestry Plan Issue Resolution](#)
- [Navigable Waters Protection Act](#)

Tuesday, 03 February 2009 21:25

Federal Government uses Economic Crisis to Gut Navigable Waters Protection Act

By Carly Armstrong, Forest Campaigner with Earthroots.org

The alarm bells rang for the Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWPA) last fall, when the Federal government organized a steering committee to address a proposal to change the more than century old NWPA. The project was dropped during the federal election but has now been slotted into the Federal budget plan in an unprecedented move to

revise legislation through a budget plan.

The NWPA is an Act that enshrines an important part of Canadian culture and heritage, the right to navigate a water body anywhere in our vast country. The proposed changes seek to alter important definitions in the Act, including the difference between minor and major waterways and minor and major works. The move, admittedly to relieve a backlog of projects and reduce environmental regulations, will also mean that smaller rivers and streams commonly used by recreational paddlers may be the site of development without being subject to the existing regulatory processes.

Of equal importance is the lack of public consultation involved in these important changes. Earthroots believes that before any changes to this legislation are made, the public should be consulted. Hundreds of thousands of recreational canoeists, kayakers, and other boaters utilize their right to navigation on Canadian waters each year and it is unacceptable to make such sweeping changes without consulting the public.

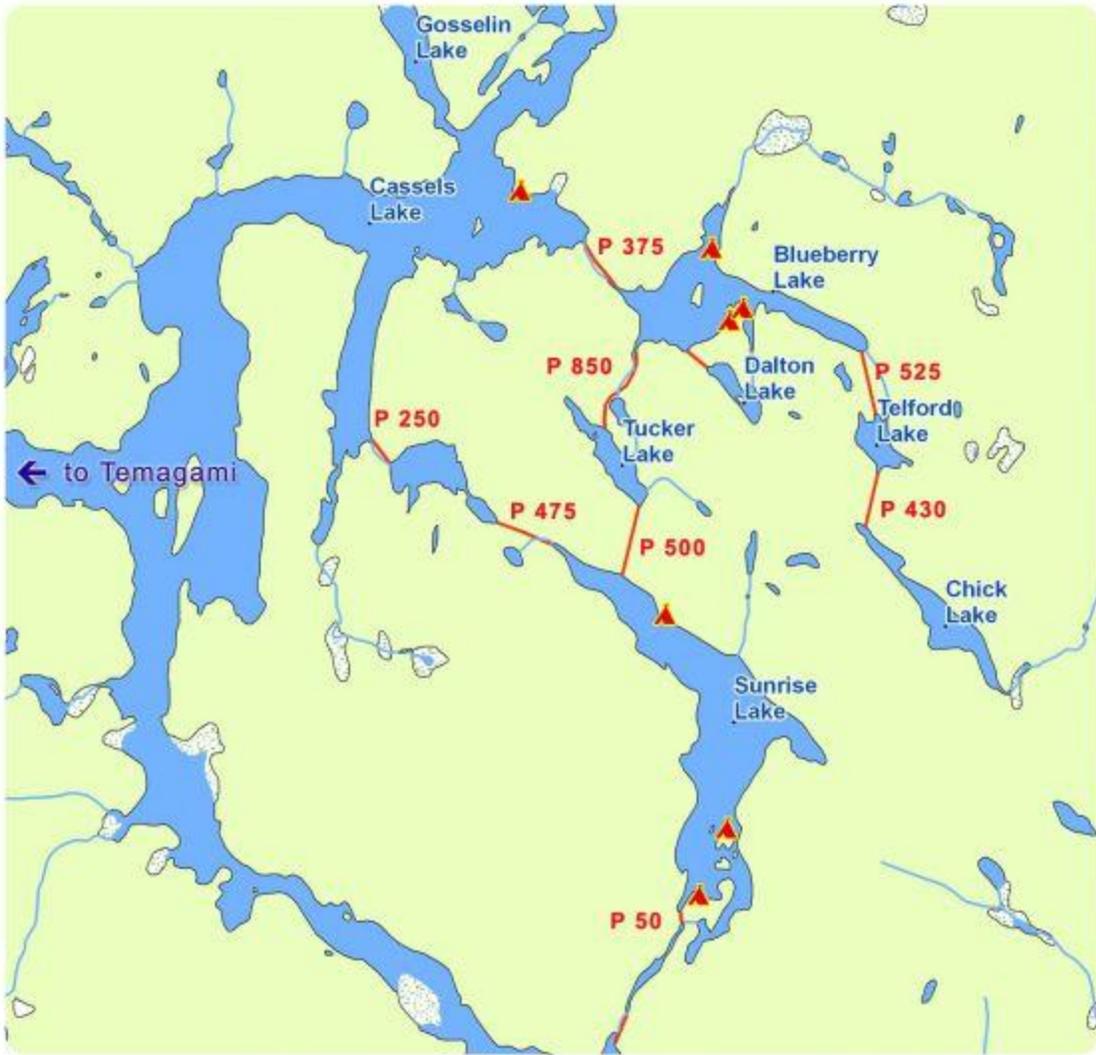
Please visit www.ispeakforcanadianrivers.ca for more information on the issue and how to make your voice heard. Tell our federal government you deserve to be consulted in the revisions to this Act and do not want to lose your right to navigate

- [Bluberry Lake Loop Canoe Route](#)

Thursday, 29 January 2009 03:15

For everyone out there that's looking for a Blueberry Lake Loop Canoe Route map... here you go!

Just right click the image and save. Image size will be 1233x1470 px.



Blueberry Lake Loop Canoe Route



All maps and associated information contained in this site are to be used for general illustrative purposes only. Although best efforts have been made to create maps that are accurate, due to the complex and extensive nature of the data, all representations and/or information provided herein are approximate and to be verified by user. User hereby acknowledges that maps are not intended for true and accurate navigational purposes and hereby accepts and assumes all inherent risks associated with the use of maps. Further, user agrees to release from liability and to hold harmless all persons associated with the Friends of Temagami from any, loss, damage, bodily injury, or expense user or user's next of kin may suffer resulting from use of maps and/or information contained in this website.



- President's Message

Monday, 19 January 2009 16:30

After one year serving as President to Friends of Temagami (FOT), I am much more versed in the ins and outs and the complexity of what makes Temagami such a special place to so many people. This first year of tenure has made me realize that no longer is Temagami just a place I love to explore by canoe but a region that requires a well-grounded voice of opposition to a bureaucracy that is narrowly focused on monetary

return.

During the last year, I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with such a varied group of people, all interested in some form of protection or promotion of Temagami. There are of course people interested in the canoeing and hiking opportunities that the area is famous for. Secondly, there is the group of people interested in saving the trees and the Old Growth Forests that make the Temagami region unique. The third group are people with a vested interest in both the aforementioned that support their local tourism based businesses and investments. These are the people that make up the FOT membership and readership. It is all these people and their interests that combine to form and direct FOT, and the common bond, that is a love for Temagami, is what makes this advocacy group so strong.

The Annual General Meeting held this Nov. 15th at Smoothwater Lodge, Temagami, was well attended by many friends representing these interests. It was a great opportunity for members and the public to hear the activities and get caught up with the many aspects that FOT has been involved with over the past year. The meeting also gave a charge of renewed energy for the reasons that our membership joined FOT.

Unfortunately it became clear at the meeting that not all is well with the Temagami forests. Much of the meeting was taken up by discussion of the recent Forest Management Plan for Temagami. Although the plan is said to be based on the latest, best forest management practices, it lacks in respect and adequate consideration for the canoe routes, hiking routes and spiritual sites. It is this weak point of the plan that fails to properly protect and enhance this valuable resource. FOT's review of this plan revealed that it is wrought with policy that does not support these cultural and natural values that the area is known for and will eventually put a heavy strain on the recreational opportunities that the Temagami region relies on.

However bleak this may sound, I feel there is hope. Our dedicated members attend and comment on the forest management where opportunity allows and participate in the public input stage by serving on the Local Citizens Committees. It is hoped that the individuals placed into positions of decision making take heed of the expert advice that FOT has to offer. FOT has entered Issue Resolution with the plan, along with seven other groups and individuals. This was noted as unprecedented in this Crown Land Management Area and that speaks volumes about the shortcomings of this proposed 10 year plan. FOT plans to stand on our issues to see a change for a plan that has greater respect for the opportunities outside of resource extraction and put recreation and natural landscapes on an even playing field with forest management.

As I move into my second year heading this dedicated group, I want to make mention of

the good work of our conservationist and recreationists volunteers. This is the key asset that keeps FOT pressing the promotion of Temagami as a world class canoeing destination and moving forward on preservation of the unique ecologies and the culturally historical sites that make Temagami famous. I encourage anyone interested in the well being of Temagami to contact Friends of Temagami to see how you may help.

email@friendsoftemagami.org

Alex Broadbent - President, Friends of Temagami

2010 Memberships

Now accepting 2010 Membership Applications

Membership fees and donation are directed towards enabling our expertise to act on current and ongoing issues. From simple bank fees and stamps to conferencing and presenting reports, Friends of Temagami are active in responding to issues concerning environmental and recreational conservation.

As a member you will receive recognition of membership with:

- FOT gift of association
- Seasonal e-newsletter
- Opportunity to participate on project implementation and committee representation.
- Membership vote at the Annual General Meeting



Membership Fee

\$25.00 for a basic membership - Gift of a Canoe sticker or Back Pack Badge

\$40.00+ for a supporting membership - Gift of Both Canoe sticker and Back Pack Badge

Patronage and donation made in honor or in memory of an individual are recognized in the name of the patron, honoree or the deceased.

Volunteers

Friends of Temagami cannot assemble to effectively take on the challenges that Temagami faces without volunteers. It is by the dedication of personal connection to Temagami that FOT realizes and achieves its goals

You can help by Volunteering as a::

Committee member

Project research supporter

Please contact us at email@friendsoftemagami.org further details.

Your participation is welcome.

- [Temagami Forest Management Plan - Last chance for public comment](#)

Tuesday, 14 October 2008 00:00

The opportunity to submit your review and comment on the Draft Temagami Forest Management Plan 2009 - 2019 is drawing to an end. The 60-day period for the public to comment on the draft plan ends on **Nov. 3, 2008.**

FOT filed a request for Issue Resolution, citing concerns with increased road density, lack of protection for species at risk, increased reliance on large clearcuts, logging near Spirit Rock and Obabika River Provincial Park, and decreases to buffers on canoe routes, viewpoints, and heritage trails. Through this, FOT attended a private session with MNR on these issues. It was apparent that they were unwilling to compromise at that time.

Friends of Temagami needs your voice to speak out for increased protection of Temagami's wilderness!

To review the summary of the draft forest management plan, please click below:

[Temagami Draft Forest Management Plan](#)

A sample letter has been prepared for your use; feel free to modify it for your opinion.

[sample letter](#) Word document

- FOT Annual General Meeting

Friday, 10 October 2008 00:00

You are invited to the Friends of Temagami's Annual General Meeting held in Temagami, Saturday, November 15, 2008. In the weeks to come we will be creating a dynamic agenda. Also on tap will be a celebratory feast, evening bonfire, and short paddling or hiking trips.

Carpooling will be available from various parts of Ontario.

If you have not yet joined the Friends of Temagami, you will be able to at the AGM.

Saturday, November 15, 2008

9:00am - 5:00pm

Smoothwater Outfitters

Smoothwater Road

Temagami, ON

For more information including accommodations and to **RVSP** please contact :

email@friendsoftemagami.org

- Opportunity to review Greenwood PP preliminary management statement

Friday, 03 October 2008 00:00

A preliminary management statement for WJB Greenwood Provincial Park has been prepared. It is available for inspection until November 14. You can get a copy at http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/wjbg_planning.html. For more information, to submit comments, or to be added to the project mailing list, contact Kevin Pinkerton, Park Superintendent, kevin.pinkerton@ontario.ca.

The Friends of Temagami, in cooperation with the Town of Latchford, is opposing part of the Temagami Draft Forest Management Plan which proposes logging over the Burns Trail.

Peter Davies, Mayor of Latchford, wrote the following on the Burns Trail:

"The Burns & Coleman Trails are recreational trails in our area with a long historical background dating back to the 1920's. The Burns trail was originally used to access logging and mining areas. The Coleman Trail was developed as a canoe portage route, providing access to Coleman and Anima-Nipissing Lake. Presently, these trails are still used as traditional travel corridors providing recreational use such as hiking, walking, ATV-ing, snowshoeing, skiing and snowmobiling.

"The Burns & Coleman Trails are important to the residents of Latchford. The Burns Trail is also essential to the development of a trails network within W.J.B. Greenwood Provincial Park. The Town of Latchford has entered a partnership with Ontario Parks to

be the custodial manager of the park and has just recently released the Preliminary Management Statement. The park is set to provide low intensity, backcountry camping within a network of hiking trails. The Burns Trail is a main attraction of the park and serves as a trailhead. Remnants of an old logging camp still exist along the Burns Trail.”

You can find a guidebook to trails in the Latchford area here: <http://www.latchford.ca/visitors/AreaTrailsBooklet.pdf>.

- [Contact info, finally!](#)
- [Ontario's Mining Act Review](#)

Tuesday, 16 September 2008 00:00

Ontario's Ministry of Northern Development and Mines is undergoing a review of the province's Mining Act. The Friends of Temagami has been active in this process, attending an information session, and preparing a submission on the review.

The FOT's submission focused on the following:

- Extending forest industry buffers around canoe routes and portages to the mining industry.
- Eliminating the use of cut lines around claims.
- Increasing communication and co-operation between MNDM, MNR, Ministry of Tourism, and non-governmental organizations.
- Extending the "Disruptive Mineral Exploration in Special Management Areas" process to include all Crown land areas having high recreation and tourism values, like Temagami.
- Reconcile differing land values prior to exploration, ensuring the protection of the natural environment, incorporating free, prior and informed consent, and the recognition of Aboriginal and treaty rights.
- Giving Aboriginal communities and municipalities the right to withdraw lands from prospecting within their jurisdictions.
- Changing the "Provincial Policy Statement" under the Planning Act to allow ecological, cultural and recreational values to be placed at a higher priority than mining values.

You can learn more from the [MNDM webpage](#) or from [MiningWatch Canada](#).

You may also download the FOT's submission (below) and use it as a template for a letter of your own. Comments are due October 15.

http://www.friendsoftemagami.org/planning/FOT_Ontario%20Mining%20Act%20Review.pdf

- [Old-growth forests are carbon sinks, not sources](#)

Monday, 15 September 2008 00:00



A new study in the September 11 edition of the journal [Nature](#) smashes the myth that young forests absorb more carbon than old-growth. It finds that old-growth forests are net carbon sinks and that cutting them releases up to 40% of their stored carbon.

Here's the first paragraph from the Nature study, entitled **Old-growth forests as global carbon sinks** (emphasis ours):

*Old-growth forests remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at rates that vary with climate and nitrogen deposition. The sequestered carbon dioxide is stored in live woody tissues and slowly decomposing organic matter in litter and soil. Old-growth forests therefore serve as a global carbon dioxide sink, but they are not protected by international treaties, because **it is generally thought that ageing forests cease to accumulate carbon**. Here we report a search of literature and databases for forest carbon-flux estimates. We find that in forests between 15 and 800 years of age, net ecosystem productivity (the net carbon balance of the forest including soils) is usually positive. Our results demonstrate that old-growth forests can continue to accumulate carbon, contrary to the long-standing view that they are carbon neutral.*

*Over 30 per cent of the global forest area is unmanaged primary forest, and this area contains the remaining old-growth forests. Half of the primary forests (6×10^8 hectares) are located in the boreal and temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere. On the basis of our analysis, these forests alone sequester about 1.3 ± 0.5 gigatonnes of carbon per year. Thus, our findings suggest that 15 per cent of the global forest area, which is currently not considered when offsetting increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations, provides at least 10 per cent of the global net ecosystem productivity. **Old-growth forests accumulate carbon for centuries and contain large quantities of it. We expect, however, that much of this carbon, even soil carbon, will move back to the atmosphere if these forests are disturbed.***

And here's the Editor's Summary:

Don't cut into old wood

It has long been assumed that ageing forests cease to accumulate carbon, and become carbon neutral. They are therefore not recognized for 'forest credits' in treaties such as the Kyoto Protocol. Now an extensive literature and database search for forest carbon-flux estimates shows that the net carbon balance of ageing forests is usually positive. The findings suggest that old-growth forests can continue to accumulate carbon, and that they contribute at least 10% of global net ecosystem productivity. Much of this carbon, even soil carbon, will move back to the atmosphere if these forests are disturbed, so it would make sense for carbon accounting rules to give credit for leaving old forests intact.

This study comes out as the Ontario government attempts to ascertain the relationship between logging and carbon capture in the province's forests. [Here's what they say so](#)

far:

Planting trees to sequester carbon will be one of the keys to mitigating the impacts of climate change. Forest scientists have determined that large amounts of carbon are also stored in wood products made from trees harvested from our sustainably managed forests. Trees that go into wood and paper products continues to store carbon 100+ years after harvest.

See the MNR's webpage on climate change: [Climate change in Ontario](#)

So if [old-growth forests are worth more standing than cut](#), and if old-growth forests store more carbon than young forests, remind us why we are still cutting Temagami's old-growth forests?

- [Old-growth forests worth more standing than cut](#)

Friday, 05 September 2008 00:00



This from the [David Suzuki Foundation](#), [Ecojustice](#) and the [Western Canada Wilderness Committee](#):

[Less logging of BC's old-growth forests makes more economic sense: Study highlights dividends for climate, recreation, endangered species](#)

We have no doubt that a similar study in Temagami would show similar results.

- [Temagami Draft Forestry Plan released](#)

Thursday, 04 September 2008 00:00

Earthroots calls for delay

60-day comment period runs to November 3

The Ministry of Natural Resources released Temagami's Draft 10-year Forest Management Plan for 2009-2019 yesterday amidst controversy.

[Earthroots](#) has called for a delay to the planning so that public concerns can be addressed.

In July, Temagami's Local Citizens Committee, a MNR-appointed advisory board representing a broad cross-section of special interest groups, voted to condemn the draft plan. Such action is unprecedented in Ontario.

To cap it all off, a record seven requests for Issue Resolution have been filed with the MNR. These requests have been launched by cottagers' associations, environmental groups, trail users, and tourist businesses upset with parts of the draft plan.

Friends of Temagami filed a [request for Issue Resolution](#), citing concerns with

increased road density, lack of protection for species at risk, increased reliance on large clearcuts, logging near Spirit Rock and Obabika River Provincial Park, and decreases to buffers on canoe routes, viewpoints, and heritage trails. At our first meeting on the issue with the MNR, it was apparent that they are unwilling to compromise.

There is now a 60-day period for the public to comment on the draft plan. We will post a sample letter here for you to send to the MNR. Past letter writing campaigns have netted impressive results, and now we need to keep up the pressure.

Maira Welsh with the Toronto Star wrote an extensive article on the issue. She interviewed FOT Vice President (and Earthroots campaigner) Mike McIntosh and FOT Board Member Bob Olajos. You can see her article [here](#).

Articles also ran in the [North Bay Nugget](#), [Timmins Daily Press](#), and the [Sault Star](#).

See the original Earthroots press release [here](#).

- [FOT now on Facebook](#)

Monday, 11 August 2008 00:00

Friends of Temagami now has a Facebook group! Why not join? There's discussions, the Wall, photos, and upcoming events. Post a video, share a thought. What it becomes is largely up to you. You'll need a Facebook account, if you don't already have one. You'll find the group [here](#). There's even a page for the [Changing of the Seasons Ceremony](#), September 13-14 on Obabika Lake.

With 62 members and growing, we're hoping that some of the Facebook members, who are perhaps new to FOT, will take the leap and become active contributors to the FOT's mission.

- [4700 km of Canoe Routes Identified in Temagmi](#)

Thursday, 07 August 2008 00:00

A recent study by the Friends of Temagami has identified over 4700 kilometres of canoe routes in Temagami. This is almost double the officially-recognized government figure of 2400 km. Also identified were 1300 km of winter-only travel routes.

Using the Historical Map of Temagami by Craig MacDonald, the Temagami Canoe Routes map published by the MNR, Canoeing Kayaking and Hiking Temagami by Hap Wilson, and records from camps, outfitters, and guides, the FOT has painted a picture far different from what the MNR would have us believe.

The study's area includes all of Temagami, from Wanapitei Lake to Lake Temiskaming, and Tilden Lake to Matachewan. The MNR has been unable to say how it calculated its 2400 km of canoe routes, or exactly what area is covered in their definition. Their 2400 km measurement has been in use for quite some time, and has remained constant despite major changes to the boundary of the area they call Temagami over the last 30 years.

The FOT study also identified 200 km of canoe routes which have been lost over the last 110 years to logging, roads, private land development, hydroelectric flooding, and mining.

Temagami's 4700 km of canoe routes compares to 1500 km in Algonquin Provincial Park, 3900 km in the Quetico/Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, and 3000 km in Wabakimi Provincial Park. Of these four major canoeing destinations, Temagami is the only one not entirely protected.

Photo courtesy of Laurence Lue, [Creative Commons](#).

- [Update on Cottage Lot Development by Francis Boyes](#)

Tuesday, 05 August 2008 00:00

In a push to increase property tax revenue, the municipality of Temagami is investigating three lakes along the Highway 11 corridor to determine their suitability for



cottage development. Preliminary results of the Lot Creation study process, including water quality and shoreline recognizance findings, were presented at public meetings in Temagami and Marten River on July 28.

The municipality had originally chosen a larger number of lakes for their cottage potential, but several were dropped owing to the MNR's development ban on lakes with self-sustaining lake trout populations. Other lakes in which the MNDM identified the surrounding area as having high mineral potential are also off-limits. Lakes that remain in the study include Olive, Brophy, and Marian.

The municipality's drive to create cottage lots has tremendous implications for the integrity of Temagami's canoe route system and growing hiking trail network. FOT should remain vigilant and oppose the cottage equivalent of suburban sprawl. While it can be argued that cottage development will benefit the town's revenue stream, it should not come at the expense of relatively pristine areas.

The town has repeatedly said it does not want Temagami to become a 'Muskoka north'. Cottage lot development will be a true test of that assertion.

- [FOT monitoring new prospectors' road near Anima Nipissing](#)

Thursday, 24 July 2008 00:00

A new prospectors' trail, connecting Anima Nipissing Road and the Anima Nipissing Lake-to-Bay Lake north portage has been constructed. The road may be to access mining claims in the Kitt Lake area. As this road falls under the Mining Act, it has not undergone any form of environmental assessment or public consultation.

These photos were taken at the Anima Nipissing Road in October 2007 by Tim Bankerd.

FOT is monitoring this development and is in communication with the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. We are attempting to ascertain whether or not the work followed all applicable regulations. We are also looking into the impact of prospecting activities on trails, portages, and heritage sites.

- [Blueberry to Sunrise Route Re-opened](#)

Tuesday, 22 July 2008 00:00

Three Friends of Temagami members recently returned from restoring the traditional canoe route between Blueberry and Sunrise Lakes. Neil Caswell, Mike Murphy, and Bob Olajos collaborated on the effort. Neil and Mike rehabilitated the Blueberry to Tucker Lake portage in late May, while Bob reopened the Tucker to Sunrise portage in early June. Both portages had been rendered nearly impassable due to lack of maintenance. Now both are easy to follow.

Blueberry Lake has seen a resurgence in popularity recently due to the Blueberry Lake Old Growth Hiking Trails. However, there was no easy route out of Blueberry, so most

paddlers only visited for a day trip. Now, with the route to Sunrise Lake, canoeists can use the area as part of a loop.

Ancient Forest Exploration and Research published a map and guidebook to the trails in 1998, and can be found on their website, www.ancientforest.org. The area was also site of collaboration between FOT, AFER, and Earthroots in 2000. The groups took the MNR and Goulard Lumber to issue resolution after plans to log over the trails surfaced. An agreement was struck to spare the trails and keep logging to the north of Blueberry Mountain.

The Blueberry Lake loop canoe route map can be found

[Blueberry-Loop.jpg](#) (350 kb)

[Blueberry-Loop.pdf](#) (420 kb)

- [FOT's role in forest management planning](#)

Thursday, 17 July 2008 00:00

One of the most important roles that the Friends of Temagami plays in their efforts to protect and preserve Temagami's vast network of historic canoe routes, is their role in forest management planning.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources divides up the logging of crown land in the province into management units. Temagami is divided into four separate units the Temagami Forest, the Timiskaming Forest, the Sudbury Forest, and the Nipissing Forest. The majority of Temagami's famed canoe routes fall within the Temagami and Sudbury Forest Management Units.

The MNR requests input from the public when writing Forest Management Plans for these units. Each Management Unit has a Local Citizens Committee, comprised of stakeholders who have a concern for how "their" forest is managed. From MNR website:

"Local citizens' committees are appointed to assist in the process of preparing forest management plans across MNR's forest management planning area. These committees are made up of people who live and work in the area or otherwise have a direct 'local' interest in the plan. They influence the development of the plan by participating in meetings and discussions. The public is notified at various stages of plan development. They are provided with on-going opportunities for review, comment and input during forest management plan preparation and implementation."

FOT board members Fran Boyes and Bob Olajos sit on the Temagami Forest Local Citizens Committee while Mike McIntosh and Viki Mather sit on the Sudbury Forest Local Citizens Committee.

These LCCs meet at least once a month to discuss issues affecting the

forest. Important issues like old growth forests, new roads, where and when logging will occur, wildlife habitat, and a myriad of other forest management issues are discussed.

Through these important consultation processes, and by working together with MNR staff, Friends of Temagami helps ensure sure that this unique network of interconnected canoe routes will remain for generations to come.

- [New parks superintendent for Temagami](#)

Wednesday, 16 July 2008 00:00

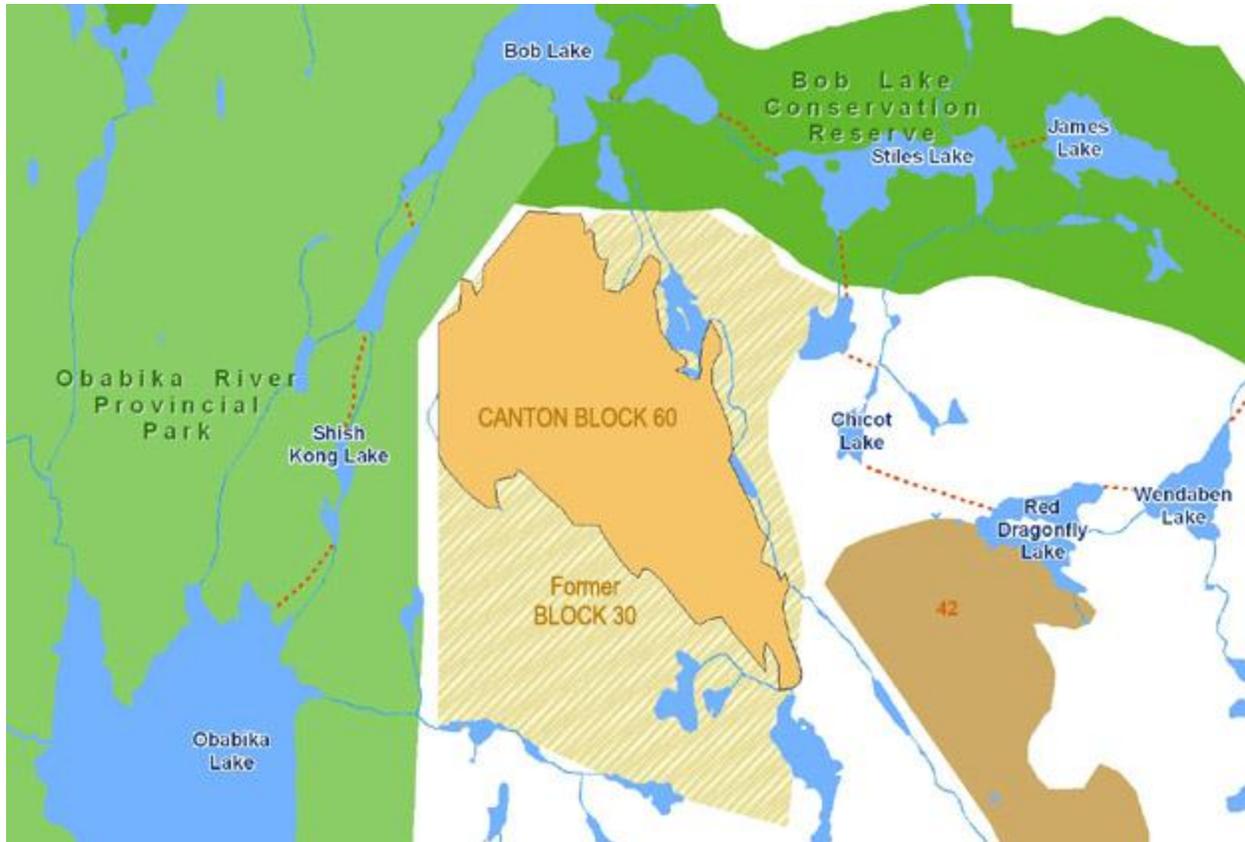
There's a new man in the stern for Ontario Parks in Temagami. Kevin Pinkerton replaced John Salo as Superintendent on July 1. Pinkerton, former manager of the Hills Lake Fish Culture Station in Englehart and an expert on the endangered Aurora trout, is now responsible for the area's two recreation-class parks (Finlayson Point and Marten River) and five backcountry parks (Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater, Makobe-Grays, Solace, Obabika River, and Sturgeon River). Top of Pinkerton's to-do list will be dealing with public complaints regarding over-zealous permit checking by park rangers coupled with minimal portage and campsite maintenance. When the permit system was introduced in 2005, canoeists were told that the money raised would go directly to backcountry maintenance, but paddlers have yet to see results. Instead, many are feeling the heat as rangers lie in wait at key locations to enforce the permit regulations.

- [FOT takes MNR to task on Temagami FMP](#)

- [We have received an award!!](#)

- [Spirit Forest Logging](#)

Wednesday, 11 June 2008 00:00



MNR has ammended it's plan for the proposed CANTON BLOCK 60; they have removed the Southern section of the proposed block resulting in a harvest area of 3.5 square kilometers. This alteration is 43% reduction to the former harvest block. Unfortunately, they have **not** moved it further away from Spirit Rock - that section of the block remains.

Why they have altered the plan in this way is unknown at this time. FOT will be looking to provide more info on this through its involvement on the Temagami LCC.

Fortunately for us, this block is not scheduled to be harvested until the second half of the ten year plan; 2014-2019, so this gives us some time to work this harvest area out of the plan.

FOT thinks it is absolutely vital that we at least negotiate so that cutting does not occur near such a spiritually significant area.

- [FOT members cleanup on Obabika Lake](#)
Tuesday, 20 May 2008 00:00

FOT members Ed MacPherson, Alex Mathias, Kim Cowan, and Bob Olajos participated in a major cleanup of the Ranger Point campsite on Obabika Lake over the May long weekend. Over 10 bags of garbage, mostly cans, bottles, and plastic dating back to the 1950s were removed. Ed has been in the area since just after ice out, performing the thankless task of installing, moving, and maintaining MNR-supplied thunderboxes. Thanks, Ed!

- [Endangered Wilderness](#)
- [Temagami's Most Endangered Wilderness 2009](#)

Monday, 05 October 2009 19:41

Temagami's Most Endangered Wilderness 2009

This is the fourth annual edition of the Friends of Temagami's Most Endangered Wilderness. We are seeking your assistance in protecting these special places. With each area you will read about what actions you can take.

See www.friendsofthemagami.org and our next newsletter for more information. Don't forget to join the Friends of Temagami Facebook Group and follow us on Twitter (@friendstemagami)!

1. Sturgeon River and the Solace Wildlands

As part of the 2010-2020 Sudbury Forest Management Plan, Vermillion Forest Management (VFM) has requested permission from Ontario Parks to allow a temporary bridge over the Sturgeon River. The bridge is proposed for the middle of the last remaining roadless stretch of the Sturgeon River. VFM says it needs this bridge to make the hauling of logs from the Solace Wildlands to Domtar's Nairn Centre Mill economically feasible.

There is other eligible timber in this area as well as land eligible for prospecting and mining; meaning this temporary crossing may well become permanent. Also, there is extensive illegal motorized access downstream of the proposed crossing and the province has been unable or unwilling to stop it. FOT is concerned about the precedent this will set for new roads in Ontario's provincial parks. Add to that MNR's inability to enforce current access control restrictions and this proposed bridge looks less appealing all the time. Finally, the two-year old Temagami Area Park Management Plan clearly prohibits new roads in the Sturgeon River Provincial Park!

Friends of Temagami expects Ontario Parks to maintain the integrity of the Sturgeon River Provincial Park while working to stop the illegal access which currently occurs.

What you can do: Ontario Parks is currently assessing the VFM proposal. Please stay tuned to our webpage, newsletter, Facebook, or Twitter. If there is an opportunity for

public comment, FOT will mount an aggressive publicity and letter writing campaign.

2. The Ottawa-Temiskaming Highlands Trail

Nastawgan Trails Inc. (www.nastawgantrails.org) built the Ottawa-Temiskaming Highlands Trail; a wilderness hiking trail from the town of Latchford to Grand Campment Bay on Lake Temiskaming. Some have called the 100 plus kilometre trail, “more beautiful than B.C.’s Stein Valley.” The OTHT was built with all the proper approvals from the Ministry of Natural Resources, but in the recently approved 2009-2019 Temagami Forest Management Plan, it was only afforded a 30 m reserve plus a 30 m modified reserve. NTI had requested a variable reserve of up to 250 m, depending on the local terrain and vegetation. The Ministry of the Environment has refused to grant an Environmental Assessment, removing the last obstacle to the Plan’s implementation. The area from Nagle Bay south to Owain Creek is now threatened by logging. Viewscapes from many trail lookouts have no protection. NTI has contacted a lawyer and their Board has passed a motion to pursue litigation.

What you can do: Nastawgan Trails requests that you contact Gord Miller, Ontario’s Environment Commissioner, commissioner@eco.on.ca. Ask him to review the MOE refusal to grant an Environmental Assessment on the 2009-2019 Temagami Forest Management Plan. Please copy the letter to the Minister of the Environment, John Gerretsen, minister.moe@ontario.ca, the Minister of Tourism, Monique Smith, general_info@mtr.gov.on.ca, and the Minister of Natural Resources, Donna Cansfield, dcansfield.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org. For more information, or to join NTI, contact www.nastawgantrails.org.

Update on the 2008 Most Endangered Wilderness

1. Wolf Lake—decision on the future of Wolf Lake expected to be released soon on the Environmental Bill of Rights
2. Spirit Forest—Block 46 expected to be logged between 2014-2019
3. Lady Evelyn Lake (north basin)—logging rescheduled for 2009-2010

Update on the 2007 Most Endangered Canoe Routes

1. Barter Lake to Isbister Lake via Dead Tree Lake—logging delayed to 2014-2019
2. Anima Nipissing Lake to Bay Lake via Gilchrist Creek and Island Lake—logging delayed to 2009-2014
3. Sturgeon River to Little Laundrie Lake via Shee-shaw-gee (Big Marconi) Lake—logging rescheduled for 2009-2010
4. Kukagami Lake to Matagamasi Lake via Bad Lake—logging unlikely due to low market demand
5. Lady Evelyn Lake/Lady Sydney Lake—logging rescheduled for 2000-2010
6. Headwaters of the Lady Evelyn River—logging rescheduled for 2000-2010
7. Montreal River Provincial Park and Makobe River Provincial Park—some logging completed, some rescheduled for 2009-2010

Update on the 2006 Most Endangered Canoe Routes

1. Breeze Lake—route reopened, logging in 2008 to respect portages
2. Chambers Lake to Spawning Lake—logging delayed to 2014-2019
3. Muskego Wildlands—primary road construction and logging delayed to after 2019
4. Yorston Wildlands—logging continues in this area
5. Hamlow Lake to Sturgeon River—no change
6. Obabika Lake to Little Fry Lake—no change

- Solace Wildlands - Public Comment Deadline

Monday, 25 May 2009 16:51



A review of the Long Term Management Direction (LTMD) for the Sudbury Forest is going on right now--deadline is June 3rd.) There will be an open house in Sudbury in late June. Now is our best chance to ensure logging plans take our concerns seriously.

The sooner you comment, the better chance there is to have an impact - write a letter now, then plan to attend the open house to see how your comments were incorporated. See notes below for ideas on letter writing. FOT has reviewed the LTMD and submitted our initial comments in which we stated our opposition to the Sturgeon River Crossing Proposal. <http://www.friendsofemagami.org/images/FOT-Sudbury%20FMP-review.pdf>

Other items in the LTMD include road density, strengthening protections for cultural heritage and recreation values, old growth forest, and access control effectiveness.

All relevant information can be found at the Vermillion Forest Management website <http://sudburyforest.com/publicnotices.html>

A detailed map of the proposed crossing of Sturgeon River Waterway Park is here:<http://sudburyforest.com/SupDocs/LTMD%20corridor%20maps/Solace.pdf>

How to write an effective letter, and what to include:

The best letters begin with a short, personal view as to why you are concerned. Start with why this is important to you personally...recent travel to the area, need for remoteness/wilderness/etc.

Here are some ideas for content:

- The northeastern portion of the Sudbury Forest Management Unit contains unique cultural and heritage values, including _____. These values must receive enhanced protection. To begin, the Sudbury FMP must state that it recognizes the area's nastawgan or traditional travel routes, campsites, and viewpoints, in its entirety, as a cultural and recreational value for aboriginal and non-aboriginal people alike.

-Canoe routes, etc. as resource for recreation, tourism, spritual fulfillment.

-Support for FOT's recommendations re. campsite (120 m), heritage point features (10 m/200m), and viewpoints (120 m/6 km), and the protection of the following popular viewpoints: Wolf Mountain, Wolf Lake Ridge, McConnell Fire Tower, The Elephant on Chiniguchi Lake, and The Gate on the Sturgeon River.

- ask for larger reserves on parks and conservation reserves, give reasons if possible

- No increase in road density in the northeastern portion of the unit.

- Improved motorized access controls, monitoring, prosecution, and public reporting.

- Oppose any new bridge on the Sturgeon River!! Provincial parks are not wilderness areas to be bartered away for economic convenience. No new bridge should be allowed across the Sturgeon River to access the Solace Wildlands. This matter is dealt with very clearly in the recently completed Temagami Area Park Management Plan, which prohibits new roads in the Sturgeon River Provincial Park.

Send your comments to: Tim Lehman (MNR Sudubry) tim.lehman@ontario.ca and to Roel Teunissen (Ontario Parks Planner),roel.teunissen@ontario.ca cc to Vermillion Forest Management vfm@onlink.net and Viki Mather, Local Citizen's Committee vikimather@hotmail.com

The deadline for public comment is June 3rd.

▪ [Solace Wildlands Under Threat](#)

Monday, 11 May 2009 15:32

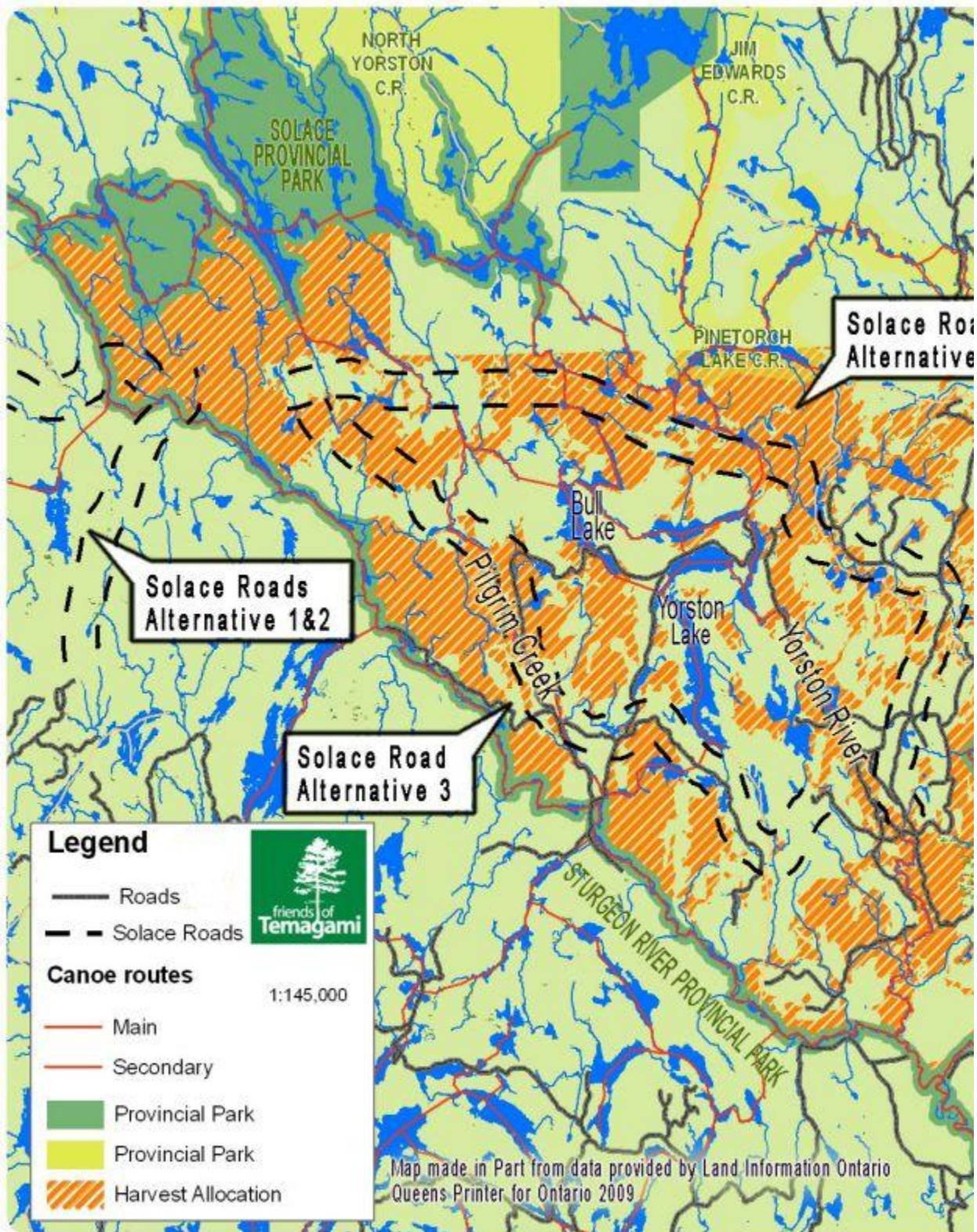


The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and Vermilion Forest Management Company Ltd. are seeking review and comment on the proposed long-term management direction for the 2010 – 2020 forest management plan (FMP) for the Sudbury Forest.

This plan outlines the proposed levels of access, harvest, renewal and tending activities for regions in what we consider to be Western Temagami. This plan also includes preferred and optional harvest areas and areas which could be reasonably harvested during the ten-year term of the plan.

Some of these areas are situated in the Solace Wildlands - a remote area situated between Solace Park and the Sturgeon River Park. Of particular concern is a proposal to amend the recently adopted Sturgeon River Provincial Park Management Plan and allow another bridge to gain access to clear-cut this pristine area.

The Solace Wildlands is a large roadless area that is a major asset to any expansion of a true wilderness area in the Temagami District. FOT is very concerned that this plan threatens the integrity of the Pilgrim - Yorston Corridor, specifically the Yorston River and Pilgrim Creek canoe routes. FOT will oppose the crossing proposal as well as other issues within the FMP through the public process, from providing comment to the Long Term Management Direction (LTMD) to Issue Resolution and request for an Individual Environmental Assessment to the Ministry of Environment if need be.



This image demonstrates the four Alternative Road Proposals as designed by Vermillion Forest Management as well as the collective forestry harvest allocation blocks.

Solace Roads 1 and 2 are the preferred alternatives because of the proximity to the primary allocations located immediately between Solace and Sturgeon River Provincial Parks.

The preparation of an FMP is a five-stage process. There is opportunity for public input at each stage: All relevant information can be found at the Vermillion Forest Management website <http://sudburyforest.com/publicnotices.html>

1. Background information gathering
2. Long term management direction (the review of the completed LTMD is going on right now--deadline is June 3rd.)
3. Review of proposed operations (June 09)
4. Review of the Draft Plan (November 09)
5. Inspection of the Final Plan (March 2010)

FOT has reviewed the LTMD and submitted our initial comments in which we stated our opposition to the Sturgeon River Crossing Proposal. <http://www.friendsofemagami.org/images/FOT-Sudbury%20FMP-review.pdf>
Other items in the LTMD include road density, strengthening protections for cultural heritage and recreation values, old growth forest, and access control effectiveness.

Comments re. the "proposal to amend specific management direction for Sturgeon River PP" can be sent to either the plan author Tim Lehman, tim.lehman@ontario.ca or Roel Teunissen, roel.teunissen@ontario.ca The deadline for public comment is June 3rd.

- [Marjorie Lake Nastawgan](#)

Thursday, 09 October 2008 00:00

Trip report by Mike MacIntosh

August ??? 2008... I've lost count at this point

Years ago, during my first trip through the Chiniguchi area, I was told of little known route, linking Wolf Lake, with McConnell Bay of Chiniguchi Lake through Rathwell, Landry, and Marjorie Lakes.

Now, ten years after that initial trip to the Chiniguchi area, here I was with enough time on my hands to venture into this nearly unknown route. I had been scheduled to do some canoe trip guiding for a nearby lodge, but after a last-minute cancellation, I found myself in the area with 5 or 6 days to kill, a full food pack, and the desire to explore new country.

My good friend, Sid Bredin, had been through this route the previous spring, and had been kind enough to let me look over his maps and notes of the area. I knew that very few, if any, paddlers used this particular route each season, and from Sid's description, I knew the old Nastawgan would be in need of some serious restoration work, before it ran the risk of becoming lost forever.

I started out my trip late on a Thursday evening, as I'd been visiting with friends at a cottage on nearby Kukagami Lake while waiting for a thunderstorm to pass. Upon seeing clear skies, despite the fact that it was already after 7:00pm, I decided to ignore the tempting invitation of a dry bed and a cold beer, and get a few hours paddling in that evening.

Once on Matagamasi Lake, the winds died and the skies cleared completely, making for an ideal evening's paddle. So nice, in fact, that I decided to travel in the style of Grey Owl; that is, to travel at night. I ended up paddling the entire North arm of Matagamasi under a moonlit sky, pulling into a small campsite just as the stars were starting to shine brightly.

The next morning I awoke early, eager to get started on the task at hand. I quickly made my way up to Wolf Lake, following the route that I had come to know very well over the last decade of tripping in this region. From Wolf Lake, I made my way to the Northeast corner of the lake, and located the trailhead of the old Nastawgan. This trail was easily followed by the still obvious axe blazes clearly visible on the ancient red pine, that had stood in this area for over 250 years. Some of the trees in this forest are over 300 years old, so it's anyone's guess how old these axe blazes might be. In many cases, the thick bark of the red pine had completely grown over the blazes, leaving only a small slit in the bark indicating where the tree had been marked, many years ago.



This trail runs along a creek bed North of Wolf Lake, until it comes out at the Mackelcan logging road. This road was constructed in 1988, and is a perfect example of how canoe routes can be lost to logging. Once the portage meets the logging road, the trail is lost. On previous scouting trips, I had searched for a sign of the original portage on the other side of the logging road, but found nothing - not even a single axe blaze. After studying Craig Macdonald's historical Nastawgan map of Temagami, and consulting with other paddlers, we came to the conclusion that the original portage must have followed roughly the same route as the present day logging road. The loggers had simply built the road on top of the old portage. It was simply the best way to get through this area, and the Ojibway people knew this - thousands of years before the loggers came through this way in the 1980s. So along the road I went, climbing higher and higher until the ridge starts to level out. After some close examination, and a lot of backtracking, I finally found what looked like a trail, leading away from the road, heading North. I pushed through the thick second-growth that had sprung up after the loggers had passed through, and once into virgin forest, a trail started to appear. A faint trail, visible on the forest floor, but mostly overgrown with young saplings and overhanging branches. After about an hour's work with the brush axe and bow saw, a clear trail

became visible through the thick forest, leading right down to the shores of Landry Lake.

I was immediately struck by the rugged beauty of Landry Lake. On the West shore, a quartzite cliff rises 300 meters above the lake's surface. This quartzite outcropping stretches for over a kilometre up the Western shore and is easily as scenic as anything you would expect to see in Killarney. Campsites are essentially non-existent on this lake, but I managed to find a spot barely big enough to pitch my little tent, directly across from the white quartzite cliffs.



The following morning, I took my time, hanging around camp for awhile, just enjoying the scenery and drinking the obligatory four cups of coffee that usually precede a day's hard work in the bush.

I found the trailhead at the North end of Landry Lake, on the edge of a beaver marsh, marked by a piece of orange flagging tape tied to a branch. This led me to believe that this trail would be in better condition than the one I had fought my way through the day before. I couldn't have been more wrong; this portage had me scratching my head on more than one location. The portage starts off by crossing an old skidder trail that skirts the end of Landry Lake, just meters off the water's edge. It follows the skidder trail for a few meters, before turning North, towards Rathwell Lake. This portage was in the worst condition of all of the portages along this route. Not that it was long, or particularly difficult, just that it had been many, many years since it had seen any kind of maintenance. Without steady use, these trails can become very overgrown, and even disappear completely in places. The occasional depression on the forest floor, and the ever-present overgrown axe blazes on the older trees, however, kept me on the right path. Three solid hours of axe work brought me to a small pond. A short paddle across this pond brought me to one more short portage that led to a small bay of Rathwell Lake.

Rathwell is a stunning lake, bordered by tall cliffs along its entire Western shore, and by a jackpine covered rocky ridge along its Eastern shore. I located one campsite on the east shore, marked by a long-abandoned fire ring on one of the rocky outcroppings. Although this was the only sign of an actual campsite that I could find, this lake offers many potential sites along its Eastern shore.



After a quick stop for a late lunch on Rathwell Lake, I hurried along, anticipating another overgrown, labour intensive trail between Rathwell Lake and Marjorie Lake. I was pleasantly surprised, however, upon reaching the trailhead and finding an easy-to-follow portage in front of me. Someone had obviously done some maintenance on this section of the route, albeit several years back. There were some blowdowns to be cleared, and

I took down a number of small saplings that were encroaching on the trail, but in comparison to the last portage, this was a veritable “walk in the park”.

Marjorie is another stunning lake, with rocky outcroppings lining the entire Eastern shoreline. The lake is about 3 km in length and is surrounded by pure conifer stands. Jackpine and red pine dominate these forests, with a few white pine, white spruce, and cedar mixed in.

I spotted a huge bull moose munching on aquatic plants about halfway up the lake, but he got a whiff of me long before I could get close. I couldn't have been hard to detect; I had been working hard, and sweating hard, swinging an axe in the bush all day, and this moose wasn't about to stick around to get a closer look at whatever *that* smell was coming from...

I found a decent campsite, just North of where I had encountered the moose, and hastily set to getting my tent and the rain tarp up, as there were some ugly looking clouds moving in from the Northwest. I had no sooner anchored the rain tarp, when off in the distance - *the delicate sound of thunder* - a sound that I had come to know all too well during my 50+ days in a canoe this summer. The skies opened up, and I sought refuge under the rain tarp, seeking comfort in a glass or two of my daily ration of single malt scotch.

The rain continued all evening, and I just couldn't be motivated to leave the relative comfort of the rain tarp to go out and get a fire going on which to cook my dinner, instead relying on a few pieces of leftover bannock and a handful of trail mix, before crawling off to bed.

I awoke the next morning, to a bright, sunny day, and after another leisurely breakfast by the fire, I continued North, towards McConnell Bay of Chiniguchi Lake. From Marjorie Lake, it is possible to paddle through a narrow channel, directly into the next pond. From here, a series of short portages connect a series of three small ponds, that eventually lead to McConnell Bay. These portages were all in relatively good condition, some requiring no work at all. This made for an easy half day's paddle through typically northern boreal type lakes. The second portage North of Marjorie Lake runs along a creek and passes a particularly scenic little cascading waterfall. Just past the falls, where the creek enters the pond, I paddled over on old roadbed, now underwater. This road was marked on the topographical map, and I was curious as to what its condition might be. Beyond the gravel roadbed that was visible beneath the water's surface, the road had all but disappeared in the forest. The only access to this road was from the South end of Laura Lake, where the bridge that once provided access to these logging roads had been removed. This was a



reminder of the importance of properly decommissioning forest access roads once logging operations have ceased. I smiled as I paddled over what once was a road, and watched it quickly fade into the surrounding forest - a reminder of what we build on this land, Mother Nature will eventually reclaim.

I eventually made my way into McConnell Bay, and had a quick swim over at the beach on the North shore. From there, finding myself ahead of schedule, I decided I would try to locate another old Nastawgan, one that connects McConnell Bay with Musko Bay of Chiniguchi Lake - an old shortcut route through Chiniguchi Lake that I'd seen marked on old maps. I searched for awhile, walking the shoreline of the little pond that lies just South of McConnell Bay, but my search proved fruitless. I eventually gave up, and opted to make the long paddle out of McConnell Bay, through the main body of Chiniguchi Lake.

I made camp for the night on the main body of Chiniguchi Lake, and spent the evening studying my maps, trying to figure out where this elusive trail might be. I debated heading back over to Musko Bay the next morning, and start swinging the axe again, to open up this little shortcut.

Morning came however, and greeted me with another day of steady drizzle, and the motivation to go crashing through the wet bush was nowhere to be found. Instead, I found solace in a good book under the comfort of my well-used rain fly.

In the end, I decided that my days had been well spent along the Marjorie route, and my thirst for exploring new country had been quenched... Anyway, the Marjorie Lake Nastawgan restoration project was ten years in the making - I needed to keep at least one route a mystery to keep me motivated until next season.

- Mike McIntosh is an avid backcountry paddler, outdoor educator, and wilderness guide.

- [Temagami's Most Endangered Wilderness 2008](#)

Sunday, 06 April 2008 00:00

This is the third annual edition of Friends of Temagami's Most Endangered Wilderness. For 2008 we changed the focus from "Canoe Routes" to "Wilderness" to more accurately reflect the mission of the Friends of Temagami. Endangered wilderness can be found across Temagami from Chiniguchi to Matachewan to Marten River. Of course, we are seeking your assistance in protecting Temagami's Most Endangered Wilderness. With each area you will read about what actions you can take.

Wolf Lake

The world's largest old growth red pine forest may have its protected status revoked and be opened to logging? Sounds unlikely? Think again. The Wolf Lake area, along the Chiniguchi River in Temagami's western backcountry contains the largest

contiguous old growth red pine forest in the world. Unfortunately, new developments threaten this global treasure. For years, Wolf Lake's old growth has been protected within a Forest Reserve. This area was to be included in the Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park, elevating its level of protection. However, due to mining claims which overlap the area, the Ontario government amended its park plans and left Wolf Lake out. Recent communication from Ontario Parks and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines indicate that Wolf Lake will be stripped of its Forest Reserve protection and will become an "*Enhanced Management Area*." This would leave the world's largest stand of old growth red pine open to cutting.

What you can do? The Minister of Natural Resources has written that; "Final decisions will not be made until there is a broad public and Aboriginal consultation opportunity." Now is the time to speak up. **Write a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources, Mrs. Donna Cansfield.** Tell her that you support including the Wolf Lake Forest Reserve in the Chiniguchi Waterway Provincial Park so that the world's largest old growth red pine forest will exist in its unspoiled state for future generations.

Hon. Donna Cansfield
Minister of Natural Resources
Whitney Block, Room 6630
Queen's Park, Toronto
ON, M7Z 1W3
fax 1-416-325-5316,
email dcansfield.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Spirit Forest

Located immediately east of the Obabika River Provincial Park, Chee-skong-abikong Lake and Spirit Rock; the Spirit Forest is comprised of old growth red and white pine in the western half and old growth jack pine and spruce in the eastern half. MNR Foresters have indicated that the Spirit Forest must be harvested due to the scarcity of old growth jack pine and spruce in Temagami. FOT believes that when old growth of a certain species becomes rare, logging it should slow down or stop, not accelerate. Furthermore, logging may take place as close as 600 m from Spirit Rock, a site of great spiritual significance for the Anishnabeg and non-natives alike. Spirit Rock is a fifty-foot high monolith that stands next to the Chee-skong-abikong cliffs. Within living memory as many as three pillars of rock stood there. Concern is growing that industrial activity, including skidders and feller-bunchers may cause Spirit Rock to topple into the lake. The MNR has had plans to log the Spirit Forest before. In 2002-2003 the area was known as Block 30, earlier this year it was called Block 400 and recently the MNR changed the name once more to Canton-60. **What you can do? Write a letter to:**

Rob Baker
Plan Author, Ministry of Natural Resources

North Bay District Office

3301 Trout Lake Road
North Bay
ON, P1A 4L7
email temagami2009fmp@ontario.ca

Do this before June 17, 2008, the final date for public comment at this stage of the planning process. Ask him to remove the Spirit Forest from the 2009-2019 Temagami Forest Management Plan.

Lady Evelyn Lake (north basin)

This is a continuation of the massive - Leo, Van Nostrand, and Klock Township clearcuts, which will be clearly visible from Maple Mountain. Four portages between Lady Evelyn, Slade and Lady Sydney Lakes are slated for logging. This area comprises one clearcut from the early 2000's sandwiched between two massive new cuts. If completed, this will be Temagami's largest contiguous clearcut, stretching from the border of the Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Park to the Montreal River. (some 23 km by 10 km—a staggering 230 km²!) Compare this to the 290 km² of proposed logging in the entire Temagami Forest Management Unit for the 10-year period from 2009-2019! Our advocacy efforts will focus on both mitigating the visual impact of the logging, as well as protecting the portages. **What you can do? Write a letter to:**

Yves Vivier
Timiskaming Forest Alliance Inc.

*PO Box 550, Englehart,
ON, P0J 1H0*

You may also call Mr. Vivier at 705-544-2828, fax him at 705-544-2921, or email him at yves@timfor.com Copy your letter to:

Bill Vanschip
Management Forester
Elk Lake/Matheson Area, Kirkland Lake District, Ministry of Natural Resources
PO Box 910, 10 Government Road East
Kirkland Lake
ON, P2N 3K4

You may call Mr. Vanschip at 705-568-3243, fax 705-568-3200, or email bill.vanschip@ontario.ca Remind them to protect all portages in the area and ask them to implement measures to mitigate the visual impact of the harvesting from Maple Mountain. Tell them that clearcuts on this magnitude have no place in Temagami.

[Update on the 2007 Most Endangered Canoe Routes](#)

1. Barter Lake to Isbister Lake via Dead Tree Lake—not logged due to market conditions, but still eligible
2. Anima Nipissing Lake to Bay Lake via Gilchrist Creek and Island Lake—logging delayed to 2009-2019
3. Sturgeon River to Little Laundrie Lake via *Shee-shaw-gee* (Big Marconi) Lake—logging rescheduled for 2008-2009
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5. Lady Evelyn Lake/Lady Sydney Lake—logging rescheduled for 2008-2009
6. Headwaters of the Lady Evelyn River—logging rescheduled for 2008-2009
7. Montreal River Provincial Park and Makobe River Provincial Park—some logging completed, some rescheduled for 2008-2009

Update on the 2006 Most Endangered Canoe Routes

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3. Muskego Wildlands—primary road construction and logging delayed to after 2019
4. Yorston Wildlands—logging continues in this area
5. Hamlow Lake to Sturgeon River—no update available
6. Obabika Lake to Little Fry Lake—no update available

- FOT supports Friends of the Grassy River

Sunday, 30 December 2007 00:00

High Falls on the Grassy River is threatened by the development of a hydroelectric dam. The Grassy River is located northwest of Elk Lake and is a main water route between Temagami, Timmins, the Mattagami River and James Bay. [Friends of the Grassy River has created this webpage](#) as part of their efforts to stop the project. Postcard .pdf files to send to government ministers as well as a Save High Falls poster can be found there. More information can also be found at [Nastawgan Network](#).

The Friends of Temagami fully supports the Friends of the Grassy River in their efforts.

- Exploring one of Temagami's Endangered Routes, by Ed MacPherson

Tuesday, 09 October 2007 00:00

I thought it would be interesting to explore this route, as a part of my last trip during the 2007 canoeing season.

A [map of the area](#) published recently by Brian Back on [Ottertooth.com](#) indicates that the route from Sugar Lake through Nichol Lake and into Isbister is included in the Sugar Lake Conservation Reserve and is therefore protected from logging. The route from Isbister through Deadtree to Barter and on into Turner Lake is on Crown lands and is not shown on the Temagami Canoe Routes Map.

Also, Doug Hamilton, in his June 12th, 2007 [“view from the stern” article](#), has provided some explanation as to why the *Nastawgan* on Crown lands might not be on the Temagami Canoe Routes Map.

Most of my Temagami trips over the years have either been through areas that are now a part of the park system or through Crown lands close to the core park areas. Locating the portages shown on the canoe route planning map has never been much of a problem, even as they deteriorated over the years, when little or no maintenance was undertaken. But what about locating the *Nastawgan*?

By Thursday, September 20th, I had canoed into Sugar Lake via Diamond and Lady Evelyn Lakes, going through Goodfish and Angler in the process. As I traveled into the south west bay of Sugar Lake, I began to wonder if I could find these elusive *Nastawgan*. I moved closer to the shore as I approached the area at the end of the bay, where I thought I should start to look. Clearly it didn't go up the creek where Brian has it on his map. I moved along the shoreline slowly, scrutinizing every wisp of a trail and looking at every tree by the water's edge and into the bush. There it was, behind the island in the bay, an opening in the bush with a faint blaze mark on a tree, close to the water's edge. As I got out of my canoe, I could see some human detritus left there by some frustrated modern canoe trippers, a plastic grocery bag, along with the usual collection of old socks that kids seem to leave wherever they travel in the bush. The trail was easy to follow. It was well blazed in both directions. Some of the marks were on very old trees. Trees, that have been on the planet far longer than I have. The blaze marks had almost disappeared as the bark had grown over the cuts, but they were still recognizable. Others blaze marks were relatively new and in some cases with sap still dripping from them indicating that people were still traveling and maintaining this path. I had found my first *Nastawgan* and I went from Sugar Lake to Nichol Lake. The next part of the route out of Nichol Lake to Isbister Lake was easy to find. There is a large angular stone on the shore that is visible from some distance out in the lake and that is where the portage starts. It too was well blazed in both directions and on the odd occasion when I misplaced the trail it was easy to get back on it by looking for blaze marks. But it was a nasty one. Brian has it marked as 1300m. But, I think that must be as the crow flies, since it took me 50 minutes for each carry and 40 minutes to walk back. It started off going uphill, then leveled off and went through a swampy area, then another elevation increase, followed by a short flat section. Just when I thought I had reached the height of land, there was another climb that went mostly straight up on a switchback through an area of old growth white pine and rock outcropping before it started to go downhill towards Isbister. This portage is not for the faint of heart.

The next morning, I traveled south on Isbister to locate the portage that would take me through the next small lake towards Deadtree, Barter and eventually out to Turner Lake, a more civilized part of Temagami. It was also easy to locate this 200m portage, which started out by going straight up a steep slope. I kept losing the trail in the brush as I progressed, but once I got up to the top it was easier to follow and soon I had reached

the next small lake that would take me to Deadtree, an area due to be logged.

I crossed this small no name lake and came to a large beaver dam blocking the creek that drained this lake. The 140m portage leading to Deadtree was there on the left hand side of the dam. This is right in the area where logging is to occur, but I heard no mechanical noise and I saw no flagging tapes, indicating that logging might be imminent.

A short paddle directly across Deadtree led me to the next leg of my trip. This 440m portage proved to be a bit more complicated and challenging than Brian's brief description, would have indicated. Brian provided a picture taken by David Bourdelais that shows a Keewaydin group crossing an open area. The first part starts on dry land and comes out to the beaver meadow shown in the picture. It then crosses the beaver meadow to a high rock area on the other side where it then follows another trail along side a creek held back with a beaver dam, before it comes out on the south west shore of Barter Lake. It took a bit of time to figure this all out, but on arriving at the beaver meadow it looked as if one needed to cross over to where the high rock was located. Someone had put a couple of small rocks up there to provide direction. The meadow proved to have some soft spots in it. In fact it was downright mushy. Following the first carry across to the big rock, I concluded that I would combine the next 2 carries by putting my barrel in the canoe and pulling it across. This proved to be a messy business, but in 5 minutes I had all my gear across this swamp. The last section started behind the beaver dam that held up the creek and soon I was on Barter Lake.

The section from Barter to Turner goes up a creek, through a no name pond and then into Turner. The first section proved the most difficult. There was little water in the creek at the mouth and there was no obvious channel to paddle in. It was back out of the canoe, this time into the "loonie stuff" to drag the canoe upstream. After about 50m of strenuous effort, I found a channel with some water and I was able to get back into the canoe and while standing, pole along for a ways, coming to the first beaver dam. Bless the little devils, the water on the upstream side was much deeper and I could paddle along going up 3 more small dams along the way before coming out to the next small lake and portage that would take me to Turner Lake. This lake is surrounded by low bushes which serve to obscure the entrance to the portage, but as luck would have it, I spotted a dead tree back in the bush that looked as if it had an ancient blaze mark on it. I soon had my canoe unloaded, moving all the gear to higher ground before starting this easy 550m portage into Turner.

I was back in civilization. I had been able to find the elusive *Nastawgan* and if I can do it, so can other motivated travelers who want to explore off the beaten paths.

When I returned home, I called the area Forester, telling him that I had just completed this trip and had heard that the area was going to be clear-cut in the near future, asking what could we do to protect these portages.

Apparently, [Grant Forest Products Inc.](#) has decided not to go in through there this year,

as a result of poor market conditions.

The Forester advised that we could help to protect these routes by providing accurate descriptions of the portage locations. This could be best achieved by using GPS data that we could gather as we travel these old routes. [Nastawgan Trails](#) has logged some routes using GPS equipment, lent to them by MNR for that purpose. I asked if they would accept data collected from our personal GPS units and the response was affirmative.

We have an opportunity to log these route locations and provide MNR the with the appropriate data. In the past they have insisted that they need to go out and ground proof these trails before they would consider putting them into the local NRVIS, as a recreational asset and treat them as an Area of Concern for Forest Management Planning.

I notice from the maps, supplied with the approved version of the [Temagami Integrated Plan](#), that these particular *Nastawgan* are presently in the NRVIS data base and will receive some protection when a harvest does finally get underway.

I would like to see Friends of Temagami choose one or two of these less travelled routes during the 2008 canoe season, log them with GPS, present the data to MNR, working through the process with them to get the routes into the NRVIS and determine how we can best save the *Nastawgan* without putting impossible restrictions on the harvest.

- [Violet to Ardahl Lake loop rehabilitated](#)

Monday, 17 September 2007 00:00

Time - 2-3 days

Total distance - 21 km

Portages - 10, totalling 3610 m

Longest portage - 1260 m

1:50,000 Topo map - 31 L/13 Ingall Lake

For a detailed Google Earth map of this route, click [here](#).

This is a nice route, ideal for beginners, as it is close to access points, does not involve long, rugged shuttles, and has cell phone coverage. It's worth doing if only for the beautiful wetlands, which are somewhat unusual in Temagami. Also, Ardahl Lake is an unexpected treat. As for negatives, almost the whole route is within earshot of the highway, especially at night. Expect to see boats and cottages on Brophy, Wilson and Herridge Lakes.

Put in at the **Herridge Lake** Public Access (5740 Hwy. 11, approximately 8 km south of Temagami). Paddle across Herridge to the **Violet Lake** portage. Unfortunately, this ten-thousand-year-old *nastawgan* is now an ATV trail. The portage is 1260 m and is easy to follow. There is a fishing boat cache at the end.

Pondering Violet Creek

Paddle down Violet to the south end. A portage leads down the west side of **Violet Creek**. This leads to a hunter's stand, then crosses the creek and continues on to a second stand for a total of 230 m. The creek has enough water for a canoe, but that could easily change with a dry summer or beaver activity. There is beautiful scenery to the next portage, 150 m, on the west side of the creek. The final portage to **Wasaksina Lake** starts on the west side of the creek, about 30 m upstream from the beaver dam. All three portages along this creek were easy to find and follow, even after a dry month. There are numerous campsites on Wasaksina Lake to choose from.

Set off east, to the 60 m portage from Wasaksina Lake to **Greenlaw Creek**. This is the second of three lovely paddleable wetlands on this route. If you want to explore a little more, there is a 150 m portage into **Beauty Lake** here. A 90 m portage takes you into **Greenlaw Lake**, and a 590 m portage then takes you to **Brophy Lake**.

Pines on Ardahl Lake

Paddle to the northeast bay of Brophy and **Ardahl Creek**, the final wetland of the route. Two easy beaver dam liftovers and a 50 m portage bring you to **Ardahl Lake**, a beautiful small lake. There is a small campsite on a point in the southwest of the lake. The 650 m portage to **Wilson Lake** is easy to find and follow, with a spectacular old growth white pine about half way along. Wilson is a small recreation lake, with a cottage on nearly every island. Two portages start in the western bay and loop back to Beauty Lake. At 1010 m and 750 m, these make nice hiking trails as well. The 500 m portage to **Herridge Lake** was cleared, so it should be easy to find and follow.

- [Route # 1 - Barter to Isbister Lake via Dead Tree Lake](#)
- [Temagami's Most Endangered Canoe Routes 2007](#)

Saturday, 02 June 2007 00:00

Temagami's Most Endangered Canoe Routes 2007

Once again, we are sorry to present you with the second annual list of Temagami's Most Endangered Canoe Routes. The first was published last year by the [Nastawgan Network](#), before the Network, Friends of Temagami, and [Friends of Chiniguchi](#) joined forces.

After publishing last year's list, you responded. Thanks to your letters, explorations, and route rehabilitation efforts, we won protection for the [Breeze Lake canoe route](#). Logging on another of last year's routes, the Charley to Sutton Lake route, has been postponed indefinitely due to operational concerns.

Of course, we will again be seeking your assistance in protecting this year's Endangered Canoe Routes. Stay tuned to the Nastawgan Traveller newsletter and our

forum on [Ottertooth](#) for more information.

This also marks the first year that the Endangered Routes list has included routes in the GTA (Greater Temagami Area). The traditional family lands of the Teme-Augama Anishnabe, known as *n'daki menan*, have been dispersed to four political districts by the MNR: Temagami, Temiskaming, Sudbury, and Nipissing. These boundaries are arbitrary, with little concern for ecological, historical, or recreational realities. They have served to divide the attention of environmentalists and canoeists for years. With the inclusion of endangered routes in all four districts, 2007 marks the end of this distraction.

Seven canoe routes made the 2007 list of Temagami's Most Endangered Canoe Routes, and are posted below.

Links

[Temagami's Most Endangered Canoe Routes - 2006](#)
[Nastawgan Network Forum](#)

- [Route # 2 - Anima Nipissing to Bay Lake via Gilchrist Creek](#)
Saturday, 02 June 2007 00:00

Temagami Forest

Starting on Anima Nipissing Lake, this route passes the base of the Anima Nipissing fire tower on Head (Robert) Lake. It continues through Little Gillies Lake, Gilchrist Creek, and Island (Isobar) Lake before ending in Greenwood Provincial Park on Bay Lake. Of particular concern is the portage from Gilchrist Creek to Island Lake, immediately south of Liskeard Lumber and Grant Forest Products' Block 25, a small harvest block estimated at 3 km². This portage is recognized by the MNR as a Cultural Heritage Trail. Restoration work has already begun on this route.

[Route #2 - Anima Nipissing to Bay Lake via Gilchrist Creek - Disclaimer and Map](#)

- [Route # 3 - Sturgeon River to Little Laundrie Lake](#)
- [Route # 4 - Kukagami to Bad to Matagamasi Lake](#)
Saturday, 02 June 2007 00:00

Chiniguchi Area/Sudbury Forest

Two small clearcuts, totaling 3 km², may impact three portages between Kukagami and Matagamasi Lakes. Harvest allocation maps indicate Area of Concern reserves will be placed around them, but are too small to clearly indicate the location of the portages and associated buffers. The portages are recognized by the MNR as Cultural Heritage Trails.

[Route #4 - Kukagami to Bad to Matagamasi Lake - Disclaimer and Map](#)

- [Route # 6 - Headwaters of the Lady Evelyn River](#)

Saturday, 02 June 2007 00:00

Elk Lake Area/Temiskaming Forest

Beauty, Headwater, and Shack Lakes, the source of the Lady Evelyn River, are once again being hammered by timber harvesting. Though the two large clearcuts (totaling 14 km²) here are not directly impacting canoe routes, we are working with environmental groups in the Temiskaming District to strengthen the Area of Concern prescriptions covering logging in the sensitive Lady Evelyn River headwaters.

Route #6 - Headwaters of the Lady Evelyn River - Disclaimer and Map

- [Route # 7 - Makobe River/Canyon Lake](#)

Saturday, 02 June 2007 00:00

Elk Lake Area/Temiskaming Forest

Though there will be no logging within this waterway class provincial park, and no portages will be directly impacted, there will be heavy logging just outside the boundary. Nearly one third of the western edge of the Makobe River Park will be logged this year. This intensity of harvesting next to provincial parks is unacceptable.

Route #7 - Makobe River/Canyon Lake - Disclaimer and Map

- [Route # 5 - Lady Evelyn to Lady Sydney Lake](#)
- [Photography](#)
- [Pinetorch Creek](#)

Thursday, 28 May 2009 14:05



Pinetorch Creek above Twinkle Lake

This picture was taken May 15, 2009. While much of the district is experiencing high waterlevels from the freshet of a higher than average snow pack, Pinetorch Creek flow is quite low. This is typical of a head water watershed with a small drainage area. Pinetorch Creek flows into Ames Creek.

[Member's photos](#) Sunday, 01 February 2009 18:57



Ranger Point, Obabika Lake - A popular campsite due to its size and beach front.

Recently a trail has been made to hike to the old fire tower and Forest Ranger cabin.

[Photography](#) Monday, 19 February 2007 00:00



An interesting angle on Shomis Wap~cong reveals Grandfather's profile !

photo by Kim Cowan

- [History](#)

Thursday, 17 April 2008 13:32

The Friends of Temagami was founded in 1995. In 2007 it amalgamated with the Friends of Chiniguchi and the Nastawgan Network to form a single voice for the Temagami Region.

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SINCE 1995

2013 — FOT and [Friends of Grassy River](#) reopens the historic [Little Hawk Portages](#) over the Arctic Watershed and initiates a multi-year project to rehabilitate the Temagami Island hiking trails. FOT is a main force behind the [pARTners for Wolf Lake Art Camp](#).

2012 — FOT releases the [Temagami Adventure Planning Map](#), a major step toward stable funding for our activities. FOT is a founding member of the [Wolf Lake Coalition](#), formed to protect the world's largest old-growth red pine forest.

2011 — FOT is a founding member of the [Ontario Rivers Alliance](#), which is formed to protect, conserve, and restore healthy river ecosystems in Ontario. FOT asks the MNR to extend the minimum level of protection to all un-designated canoe routes in Temagami, providing basic protections from logging activities.

2010 — FOT requests that the Ministry of the Environment conduct an Independent Environmental Assessment of the Timiskaming Forest Management Plan in order to protect the ecological integrity of the West Montreal River Provincial Park and the Makobe River Provincial Park, as well as protect the Willow Island Creek canoe route east of Maple Mountain. FOT partners with the Ministry of Natural Resources to document and maintain canoe routes, portages, and campsites through the Crown Land Maintenance Partnership, marking our return to this historically important activity.

2009 — FOT cooperates with the MNR and Vermillion Resource Management Inc. to ensure that forestry in the Chiniguchi area protects the ecological integrity of the Sturgeon River Provincial Park. FOT prevents a new bridge crossing of the river and significantly reduces clearcutting adjacent to the park. Protection for the Yorston River, Pilgrim Creek, Haentschel Lake, and Rawson Lake canoe routes is also increased. FOT advocates for the protection of portages and campsites on Olive, Brophy, and Marian Lakes in the Municipality of Temagami's Lot Creation and Development process.

2008 — FOT launches four years of intensive forestry advocacy through involvement in both the Temagami and Nipissing Forest Management Plans. This leads to enhanced consultation with Aboriginal communities and protections for cultural heritage. FOT helps the Town of Latchford secure protection for the Burns and Coleman Trails. We also stop plans to reduce protection for some canoe routes and succeed in having three new viewpoints designated (Florence Lake Ridge, Dry Lake Ridge, and Chee-skon Ridge). FOT members undertake numerous backcountry projects, including restorations of the Marjorie, Blueberry-Sunrise, and Spawning-Chambers canoe routes, as well as cleaning campsites on Obabika Lake. FOT participates in Ontario's Mining Act Review, calling for increased consideration of recreation, tourism, and wilderness values during mineral exploration and mining.

2007 — FOT merges with the Nastawgan Network and the Friends of Chiniguchi to form a more effective regional advocate.

A FOT study identifies 4,700 km of canoe routes and 1,300 km of winter-only travel routes in Temagami. This overturns the commonly-held belief that there are only 2,400 km of canoe routes in here, and places Temagami ahead of Algonquin Park (1,500 km), Wabakimi (3,000 km) and Quetico/BWCWA (3,900 km). The study also identified 200 km of canoe routes which have been destroyed since 1900.

2006 — FOT and Nastawgan Network call for the restriction of motorized access to the five provincial parks and eight conservation reserves included in the Temagami Integrated Plan. Friends of Chiniguchi lobbies for the protection of the world's largest old growth red pine forest through the inclusion of the Wolf Lake Forest Reserve in the Chiniguchi Provincial Park. Annual Most Endangered Wilderness debuts, highlighting threatened canoe routes and wilderness areas across Temagami.

2005 — Nastawgan Network forms to call for preservation and recognition of historic canoe routes across Temagami.

2003 — FOT lobbies for the protection of wilderness and non-motorized recreation opportunities in the 2004 Temagami Forest Management Plan.

2001 — FOT completes its sixth year of an annual portage and campsite maintenance program in Temagami's backcountry, which replaced a similar program abandoned by the province in the late 1980s. Wages to pay FOT's "canoe rangers" are drawn from donations and memberships. The program has revitalized more than 1,500 km of canoe routes that would otherwise be inhospitable to the average paddler. During the Municipality of Temagami's Official Planning consultation, FOT advocates for the protection of canoe routes and the wilderness character of Lake Temagami's North Arm.

2000 — FOT works with industry and government to obtain official recognition of the Blueberry Lake old-growth hiking trails.

1999 — FOT assists volunteers to clear Temagami Island old-growth trails. FOT voices strong opposition to large clear cuts proposed for the 1999-2004 Temagami Forest Management Plan. The nine largest clearcuts are ultimately removed from that plan.

1997 — FOT, the Wildlands League, and the Sierra Legal Defense Fund win a major legal action against the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The Ministry is compelled to rewrite several forest management plans (including Temagami's) to bring them into compliance with existing provincial legislation. The legal decision is unanimously upheld on appeal and is considered a precedent setting case by Ontario's environmental law community.

1996 — FOT intervenes in the Matabitchuan Dam reconstruction project, persuading Ontario Hydro to minimize environmental impacts and rehabilitate the site following the project's completion. Following that important intervention, Ontario Hydro invites FOT to participate in the planning of the 1998 Cross Lake dam reconstruction project.

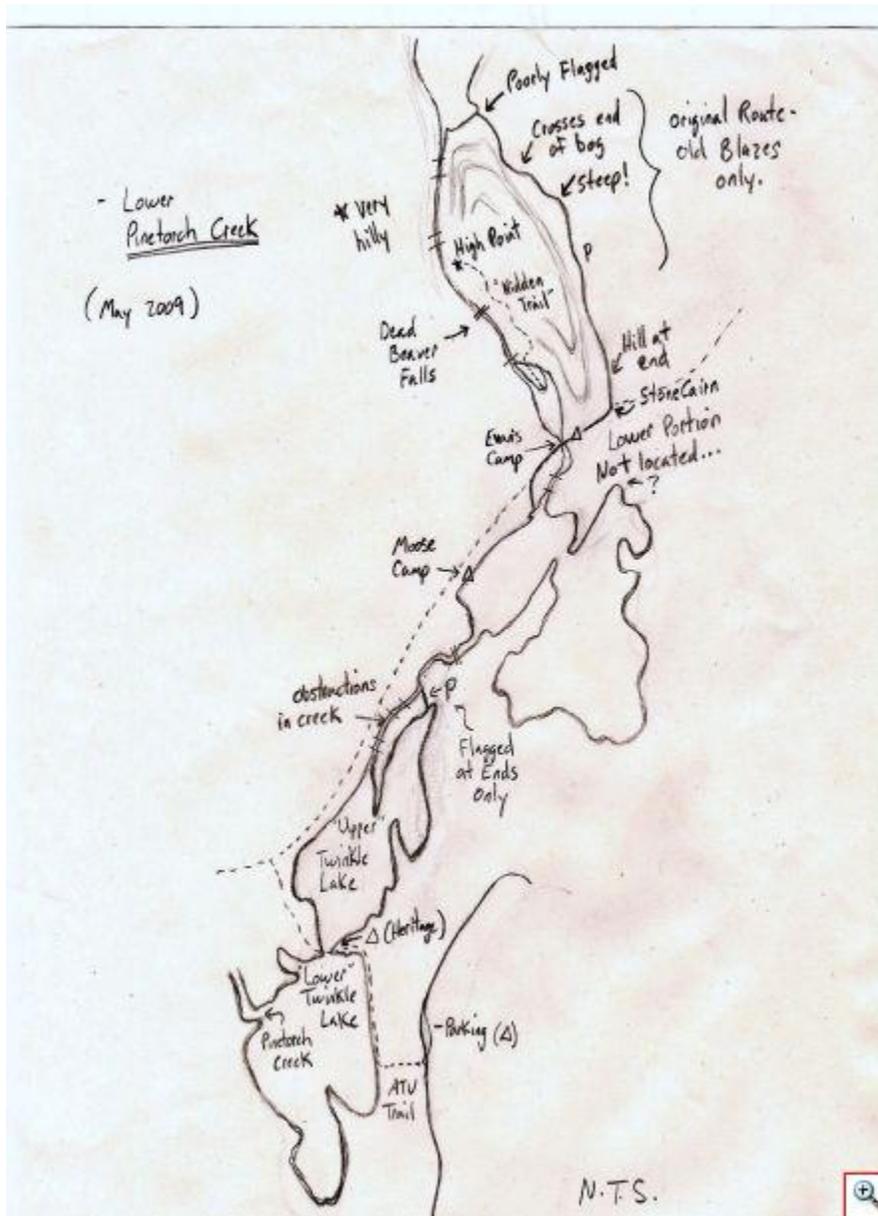
1995 — FOT is active in a variety of land use management processes, including the Temagami Local Citizens Committee, which advises on Forest Management Planning. FOT was similarly active during the Comprehensive Planning Process that led to the Temagami Land Use Plan in 1997.

- [Lower Pinetorch Creek \(Notes 1\)](#)

Monday, 15 March 2010 01:04

Lower Pinetorch Creek - 2009

Upper Twinkle Lake to Un-named Lake 1:



- [Into The Pinetorch II](#)
- [Stargazer](#)
- [Entrance to Chee~Skon~Abikong](#)
- [Into The Pinetorch](#)

- Ring Of Fire