



2022 Trip Planning * Late Ice Out * Wabakimi Rendezvous Sept. 8-11 * Breeding Bird Atlas 3 * Ontario-Canada Caribou Agreement



Ontario's Breeding Bird Atlas in Wabakimi

Thunder Bay, ON This May, a group of FOW members and naturalists will brave the brisk spring waters to paddle in the Wabadowgang Forest, next to Wabakimi Provincial Park. They will be placing and retrieving bird song monitors in proposed protected areas. ([More info here from Ontario Nature.](#) [Contact info if you'd like to participate.](#))

"This trip is a great demonstration of combining efforts and resources for a common goal of protecting natural spaces and species," said Kristen Setala, Community Science Intern for Ontario Nature, who will be joining the expedition. She is based in Thunder Bay, and will be conducting breeding bird



Plan your 2022 Wabakimi Adventure

Fr: Vern Fish, FOW President

Members and friends,

Are you considering a [2022 Wabakimi canoe trips](#). Below is a compilation of our planning resources. We're hoping for more [trip reports](#) this year, [trip journals](#), portage condition info (and any improvements) and wildlife sightings.

As an all volunteer group, our board members may be off paddling a lot this year, but we'll keep you and our web sites updated as best we can. [We're planning to come together at the Wabakimi Rendezvous \(Sept. 8-11\) to learn and chart a course](#)

surveys across northern Ontario this summer.

Birds are great environmental indicators, meaning their presence can tell us a lot about the quality of the air, water and land they are using. Community science projects such as the Breeding Bird Atlas (Atlas-3) provide data necessary to assess the status of birds by mapping the distribution and relative abundance of the approximately 300 breeding birds in Ontario. Comparing this data to previous Atlas projects (1981-1985 and 2001-2005) provides insight into which species may need more conservation attention and helps identify significant breeding locations.

The greatest threat to breeding birds in Canada is habitat loss. An encouraging step was taken in 2021 when Canada committed to protecting 25% of lands and waters by 2025 and 30% by 2030. To achieve these goals and conserve more habitats for birds and other wildlife, every opportunity must be taken. Further, in April 2021, the Province of Ontario committed to expanding Ontario's protected areas network.

Vern Fish, FOW President, said, "We are excited to partner with [Ontario Nature](#) to promote greater habitat protection for this important area. This area has many historic canoe routes with stellar wilderness values."

[Quetico/BWCA still iced up too](#)

Late Ice Out challenges early season paddlers

[forward. Join us--more info here.](#)

Wabakimi is a special place, a large provincial park surrounded by smaller parks, conservation reserves and Crown Land forests. Even so there are threats to maintain an intact ecosystem.

Our conservation efforts are key and we're speaking out to give Wabakimi a voice. *Your membership, donations and support are essential.*

[Please Journal your 2022 Trip](#)

[Trip Reports Forum](#)

[Planning, Outfitters, Permits, Lodging, Shuttles, Other Resources](#)

[Guidebook, Planning Maps, FOW Map Volumes](#)

[Trip Report and Trip Planning Webinars](#)

[Our YouTube Channel](#)

[\(NEW\) Trip Planning and Paddle Partners Forum](#)

[Ontario-Canada Boreal Caribou Agreement \(proposed\)](#)

Here's our FOW comments; emphasis on better monitoring of population status and the need for more Wabakimi protected areas.

As of May 1st, Don Elliot, [Mattice Lake Outfitters](#)) reported Caribou lake still has 40" ice. "It still looks like winter here, however, we are seeing changes every day now that temperatures during the day are above freezing and most nights are at least a couple of degrees above freezing."



Water Levels: "We started out this winter with a significant amount of rain in late November and early December which no doubt helped with the low water conditions that we had last Fall. Over the winter we had more snow than average and received almost 2 inches of rain on April 23rd and 24th. All of this snow and rain should bring water levels back to normal for at least the Spring. It may also significantly raise levels to the point of making some of the rivers treacherous for early season paddlers."

On May 5th, [Bruce Hyer, Wabakimi Outfitters](#), shared photos of ice still on Mattice Lake and said Ice should be out by May 15th...longer for big Caribou Lake.

Registration is Now Open!

Wabakimi Rendezvous, Sept. 8-11, 2022

Thursday, Sept. 8th. If you get to Thunder Bay early enough, join us at 3 p.m. at the [Thunder Bay Museum for the Wendell Beckwith documentary tour, film, and exhibit](#). (no charge) [More info here!](#)



Thursday evening, Sept. 8th. Meet-up at [Sleeping Giant Brewery](#) in Thunder Bay, for brews, schmooze, talk canoes and [Bill Ostrom will demonstrate his packs](#). Pizza provided. Cash Bar.

Friday, September 9th. Start the day at [Fort William Historical Park](#) in Thunder Bay. Experience a day in the life of a voyageur, reliving history on the Kaministiquia River. (Entrance fee not included in registration.)

In the afternoon, drive to Armstrong, Ontario, a gateway to Wabakimi Provincial Park; meet at [Wabakimi Wilderness EcoLodge](#) for supper (BBQ) and fire pit gathering, Photo/Video Contest viewings and winners.

Saturday & Sunday speaker presentations, September 10 & 11

Wabakimi Wilderness EcoLodge

([Speaker bios here](#); [order subject to change](#)).

- [Photography & adventures - David Jackson](#)
- [Origins of Wabakimi Provincial Park - Bruce Hyer](#)
- *Woodland caribou - iconic species* - Art Rodgers

- *Fire Ecology* - Gerry Racey
- *2021 Fire season* - Matthew Corbett R.P.F.
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (invited)
- Shannon Walshe, W.P.P. biologist.
- *Park Management Plan* -- Wabakimi Park Superintendent/s
- *Expanding Wabakimi Protected Areas* - Ontario Nature (invited)
- *Dehydrating Food*, Kevin Ride - author of "Backcountry Eats"

Saturday Dinner & Evening music by singer-songwriter
[Shy-anne Hovorka](#)

Sunday, Sept. 11th, Help us chart the future for the Friends of Wabakimi and the Wabakimi Wilderness. Discussion led by President Vern Fish and Board Chair Dave McTeague. Conservation, canoe route restoration, expeditions, advocacy. Where do we go from here?

Make the trek to the area early or stay after to take a canoe trip into Wabakimi or surrounding crown lands!

[Registration Here](#)

Full Registration fee per person: \$175 CAD (\$145 U.S.) (Covers food and part of speaker & facility costs. Accommodations are separate.

Meals included in the registration fee: Friday and Saturday suppers; Saturday and Sunday breakfast and Lunches as well as snacks. Note: We will all share the labour for food serving and tidying the covered outdoor eating area. Please bring your own bowl/cutlery, etc.

**Wabakimi Wanderings 2022
Photo & Video Contest**

The theme of the photo contest is "*Wabakimi Wanderings*." The photos should highlight the wildlife, camp life, challenges and/or natural beauty encountered when paddling in Wabakimi Provincial Park or the surrounding Crown lands.



Entrants may submit up to 3 photos and/or 2 videos to the contest to win prizes. Submissions must be made by July 1st. [See the contest Guidelines and forms here!](#)

First, Second and Third place prizes will be awarded separately for both the photo and video contests. First place prize is one volume of the Wabakimi Project Map booklets (5 to choose from), second place prize is a 1 year membership to FOW (can be added onto current membership), and third place prize is a new large FOW canoe sticker.

All winners will have their video/photo featured/posted on FOW website & FOW Facebook page, as will honorable mention entrants.

Don't miss this chance to share your fantastic photographs and vivid videos with others who enjoy the Wabakimi experience!

Thanks to our Business/Sponsor members



Join or Renew your FOW Membership Today!

Plan your Wabakimi Trip!
Folded or Rolled Planning Map
Route Map Volumes I-V
Wabakimi Canoe Routes Guidebook!
(NEW!)

Join Us for Members Discount

Wabakimi.org
info@wabakimi.org



Friends of Wabakimi
1060 Riverdale Road, Thunder Bay
Ontario P7J 1N2 Canada

Unsubscribe



