

SPRING 2008

# THE QUETICO

## IN PASSING

In its 54 years, the Foundation has attracted the support of many outstanding and dedicated individuals who are passionate about the outdoors and preservation of our environment. This is certainly true of two long term members of the Board of Trustees, who passed away since our last Newsletter was published. We, as individuals and as the Foundation as a whole, owe both Jacks our thanks and gratitude for their contributions to who we are today. They will be remembered for many years to come.

*George Fells, Trustee Emeritus*

### *John (Jack) Maxwell Bankes (1916 – 2007)*

I met Jack many years before we found ourselves together on the Quetico Board. It was 1956, I had just got off the Empress of Britain from England and was in Ottawa, anxious to get to Toronto, when my mother said, "But you must meet my dear friend Jack Bankes, the bank manager." What else could he be with a name like Bankes thought I cheekily?

It would be many years before I met Jack again, as he rose through the ranks at the Royal Bank. Always popular and good with people, he was instrumental in expanding the Bank and its influence. In the late 50's he traveled around the world scouting out potential markets and relationships for the Bank, and was a leader in the Bank's involvement in the oil sector in Alberta.

And it was Jack who was among those who persuaded me to succeed him as Chair of the Foundation, a role he had proudly assumed for 4 years. He continued to offer his support and encouragement through a period when the role, the mandate, and the need for the Foundation were being seriously questioned.

Jack's support never waned. He was an advisor/mentor to Jack Ridley, our benefactor, and a life-long friend to his widow, Norma. In addition to summer student mentoring programs, we worked hard at encouraging greater involvement with the native community of Lac La Croix. Jack, with the very active help of another Royal Banker, Charles Coffey, had the Royal put up \$30,000, no mean sum in those days, for programs to be dedicated entirely to the native community. We did our best to monitor the programs, we learned a lot, we made good contacts and friends, but in subsequent meetings with the Bank, with Jack present, we admitted that the programs had not always achieved the success we had hoped for. We'll find other ways, Jack purported. And that was Jack Bankes - enthusiastic, supportive, understanding and "always there".

### *Jack E. Matthews (1928 – 2007)*

Jack was much respected as the Headmaster of Lakefield College School. Always a dynamic leader - modest yet forceful, quiet but energetic, - among his many achievements, he was the founding Director of the Lester B. Pearson United World College near Victoria, B.C. He was also founder of the Trent University International Program and an active member and proponent of the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough. He was on the Quetico Foundation Board of Trustees since 1993.

I had the privilege of sharing a tent once with Jack in Quetico Park. I was Chair that year and had persuaded the Board to hold its Annual General Meeting in Atikokan, with a subsequent trip to meet some of the members of the Lac la Croix Band in the Park the next day. Exhausted but happy with the day's activities, Jack and I talked for hours in the tent ... and for once I did most of the listening! Jack spoke of how he had been invited to Buckingham Palace and met the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh in connection with Pearson College and Outward Bound activities; and of the many of the satisfactions he had, particularly with individual students and especially those from underprivileged backgrounds. As we drifted off to sleep, exhausted, Jack's snoring reverberated around the tent. Rather than one quick swish with a towel, it took a long time for me to find ear plugs, socks and other effective mufflers!

But the next day the laugh was on me. While my rites of passage as an English immigrant had taken me out in the winds of Georgian Bay, down the Trent and the Severn Rivers, and once lily dipping with a guide down the Nahanni River, I was not in Jack's paddling league. His tolerance and leadership took over. I would be in the bow! At the two rapids, which we religiously scouted, I simply sat and did exactly what I was told - and bingo, we didn't even get wet! Thanks Jack! Just one more example of your superb, calm leadership.

# CHAIR'S CORNER

BY

## *Fraser Reeves, Chair, The Quetico Foundation*

Sustainability has taken a major foothold in the minds of the population these days and has percolated up to being a key platform in the visions of many corporations. Sustainability, as defined by the World Commission on the Environment and Development, is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Focus on this topic has resulted in the creation of senior executive positions responsible for sustainability. The 'green' campaigns of corporations to reduce their environmental impact across their respective business values chain, has made 'carbon footprint' and 'greenhouse gas emissions' common terms in every household.

The Foundation's continued commitment to research that supports sustainability is paramount. We have always championed the ecological preservation of our natural resources and will continue to do so. Presently, we are staffing our 2008 Summer Student Research Program team and have short listed a few areas of research interest and prospective projects. There are many areas of opportunity where we can add value so we need to be prudent with our decisions. Having spent some time with our 2007 Program team I was very impressed with the energy, team spirit and conscientiousness of our group. They all have a passion for the outdoors and resource preservation, and their enthusiasm is infectious.

As we move towards 2009 and the Centennial celebration of the creation of the Quetico Provincial Forest Reserve and the Superior National Forest in Minnesota, the Foundation is defining how we can mark the occasion with significance. We are members of the "Heart of the Continent" partnership comprised of representatives from many interest groups and parks organizations straddling the border in the Quetico region. We look forward to some great synergies building amongst this group to take us through the next 100 years and beyond.

As the snow continues to melt, we are looking towards a busy season with our various programs- Summer Student Research Program, Ridley Wilderness Youth Program, Biology Internship Program and the Artists in Residence Program. Our season kicks off every year with Canoe Day - this year on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. I hope many of you will be able to join us for a paddle from Elora to Cambridge along the famous Grand River.

I will leave you with a quote of a Kashmiri proverb that puts sustainability into perspective: "We have not inherited the world from our forefathers...we have borrowed it from our children".

## WHERE WE'VE BEEN AND WHERE WE'RE GOING.....

This year marks the launch of our new strategic plan, which sets the future direction for the Foundation. We have reorganized ourselves into three main areas of focus- Fundraising, Corporate Affairs and Park Advocacy. In doing so, we have adopted new more targeted fundraising approaches. Our Science Committee, one of our Park Advocacy responsibilities, has developed their own strategic plan which will broaden our connections with the research community and our ability to participate in meaningful research activities, including the new research our Summer Student Research Program students and our Biology Intern will be undertaking this summer. Our Education focus, also under the Park Advocacy umbrella, will be focusing on building a strong foundation for the Ridley Wilderness Youth Program as it enters its second year and working with the Park on the launch of the Artists in Residence Program. Our level of liaison activity will increase as the Management Plan Review process unfolds, the pace of the Heart of the Continent initiative increases, and issues within and surrounding the Park demand our attention. Our Corporate Affairs Committee will be ensuring that our internal processes are sound and transparent and in keeping with leading edge business practices.

As we move into a new paddling and program season, we would like to take a moment and extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all those who enabled the continuation of longer term programs and supported the launch of our new programs during 2007.

Our Annual Dinner this past year, at Sunnybrook Estates in Toronto was a huge success, raising almost \$30,000 in support of our Summer Student Research Program and our Ridley Wilderness Youth Program. A very special thank you is extended to all those who honoured us with their presence as well as those supporters who were unable to join us this year. We are proud to recognize our Corporate Sponsors, who are key to the continuing success of our Programs and initiatives: Borden Ladner Gervais LLP; Regional Power Inc.; Rogers Partners LLP; B.M.O. Financial Group; Cole & Partners Ltd. and Bohler Uddeholm. Our Corporate Partners who share in our pursuit of wilderness objectives are Canoe Canada Outfitters, The Estates of Sunnybrook; Piragis Northwoods Company Inc.; Robert Evans Investment Counsel Limited; and Tepperman Buchalter LLP. Our highly successful silent auction was in thanks to: Canoe Canada Outfitters; Killarney Lodge; The Portage Store; Grand Experiences; XY Paddle Company; Chris Dobson; Lochanbec School of Fly Fishing; Lynn Pady; and, Black Feather; as well as two of the artists who participated in the Artist in Residence Program in 2007 - Gordon Ringius and Geri Schrab. A very special thank you is also extended to Souris River Canoes in Atikokan, who not only donated the canoe for our Canoe Raffle but who also donates canoes for the use of our Summer Student Research Program team.

In addition we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to those Foundations, without whose support our Summer Student Research Program and our Ridley Wilderness Youth Program would not have been possible: The Dalglish Family Foundation; the BLG Foundation; the Dominion Group Foundation; the Jackman Foundation; the Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation at the Toronto Community Foundation; and The Catherine Maxwell Meighen Foundation.

And finally, the Board of Trustees would like to thank each and every one of you, who in some way made a contribution to the Foundation over the past year. Without the support and encouragement of so many individuals who share our beliefs, we would not be able to make the difference that we do in preserving the wilderness of Quetico Park. From the depth of our hearts.....thank you!

'THE QUETICO' includes materials from both Foundation Trustees and outside contributors. We carefully edit our materials, and regret any reference printed in 'THE QUETICO' that may be interpreted in such a way as to offend or discredit anyone, as it is sincerely not our intent.

# QUETICO PARK

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## QUETICO - THE BEGINNINGS

The decision behind the creation of a provincial park in The Quetico in 1913 involved an interesting combination of conservation initiatives south of the border, noteworthy corporate self-interest, and cautious yet occasionally decisive, political and bureaucratic action in Ontario.

Christopher C. Andrews, Minnesota's forestry commissioner in 1905, after canoeing the boundary waters route from Basswood to Crane Lake, first proposed the idea of setting aside an international park, forest and game reserve in the Quetico-Superior region. Andrews subsequently persuaded the Minnesota legislature to reserve from sale as "a pleasure resort for the people" some 57,060 hectares of timbered land along Crooked Lake and Lac la Croix. Meanwhile, he invited the Ontario Government to follow Minnesota's example and create "an international forest reserve and park of very great beauty and interest" in a region still largely untouched by the logging, mining and railway developments then expanding in the surrounding portions of the Rainy River watershed. Officials in the Ontario Department of Lands, Forests and Mines initially did nothing to advance Andrew's proposal. There was no one in Ontario urging them to do so.

Three years later, however, prominent Ontarians began to concern themselves with The Quetico when it became evident that the big game in the region was under threat of annihilation. The moose population, in particular, could not stand the depredations, both of organized parties of professional hunters hired to provide meat for the lumbering camps in the Rainy River watershed, and of the mindless trophy hunters who slaughtered the animals for the sake of their antlers. Spearheading the protest in Ontario against such activities was the influential gold-mine owner and MLA for Rainy River, William A. Preston of Fort Frances. Preston, who sought to establish a game sanctuary in The Quetico, found an ally in the offices of the Canadian Northern Railway. The superintendent of publicity for the railway, Arthur Hawkes, saw that his company could benefit by promoting a scheme likely to develop sport tourism in the Canadian Northern's hinterland. Accordingly, the Canadian Northern joined with the internationally based North American Fish and Game Protection Association to lobby for a joint Ontario-Minnesota game reserve in the Quetico-Superior country. Following the annual meeting of the association in Toronto in February 1909, Preston and Hawkes informed Lands, Forests and Mines Minister Frank Cochrane that President Theodore Roosevelt, prompted by conservationists such as C.C. Andrews, was about to establish Superior National Forest in northeastern Minnesota, and the state of Minnesota was preparing to

declare the area a game preserve. Evidently impressed, Cochrane indicated that Ontario might also reserve a tract of land in the Hunter's Island portion of The Quetico (the section bounded by the international border, Lakes Saganaga and Kawnipi, and the Maligne River).

On February 13, 1909, President Roosevelt created the Superior National Forest. Six weeks later, Aubrey White, deputy minister of lands, forests and mines, presented Frank Cochrane with a memorandum recommending that some 405,000 hectares of "the celebrated Quetico region, which contains one of the largest bodies of pine timber in the Province" should be withdrawn from sale and settlement under the Forest Reserves Act. Subsequently, on April 1, 1909, the provincial cabinet issued an order-in-council creating the Quetico Forest Reserve. But there was a problem with this ostensibly noteworthy conservationist initiative—forest reserve status did not provide game reserve status—and thus the killing of the big-game and fur-bearing animals continued. This became apparent in 1911, when Ontario Game and Fisheries Commissioner Kelly Evans finished a report on the management of all the public parks and forests from the dual perspective of wildlife protection and tourist development. In the section on the Quetico Forest Reserve he deplored the lack of game reserve status, and reported that for seven months of the year, from October to May, no protection was afforded the wildlife, because no rangers patrolled the reserve. Even during the spring and summer, when ten men, working in pairs, oversaw the forest, the enforcement of the game laws was inadequate, with "the great bulk of the reserve left practically uncared for." Hunters and trappers were free to exploit the area "to their heart's content."

The Evans commission report (1911) resulted in the dispatch of D.D. Young to serve as game warden of the Quetico Forest Reserve. He established a headquarters at French Lake, began the work of "cutting trails, building landing and camping grounds for tourists," and made the first serious effort to enforce the game laws. Still, poaching continued on a massive scale. Young reported that employees of the Canadian Northern Railway "kill game for food at all times." The smaller lumber camps were "the greatest law breakers," since "they actually hire men at \$40 to \$50 a month to keep them supplied with moose, deer and fish all winter...If reports can be believed, some camps have actually used from fifty to a hundred moose during the winter." Such information apparently jolted bureaucrats and politicians into further action. On November 7, 1913, the provincial cabinet finally issued an order-in-council, creating Quetico Provincial Park with all the necessary regulations to protect the game.

## 2007 SUMMER REFLECTIONS

### RIDLEY WILDERNESS YOUTH PROGRAM

### LESLEY MCLEAN, TEACHER, OUTDOOR EDUCATION

When I was approached 2 years ago by The Quetico Foundation about the possibility of taking a group of students from Scarborough's Agincourt C.I., populated largely by new Canadian youth, into Quetico Park, I could never have dreamt that our first trip would be so successful and exhilarating.

Last August with the support of The Quetico Foundation's Ridley Wilderness Youth Program, I took 13 students to Atikokan and into Quetico Park for six days of canoeing, as the culminating activity of an Outdoor Education course for inexperienced students.

As only those who have shared in these types of adventures can truly appreciate, it is impossible to put into words the profound nature of this experience. There is no doubt in my mind that this opportunity and the beautiful pristine wilderness of Quetico Park have made a deep and lasting impression on every one of these thirteen students.

Many of these students have been inspired by their experience to consider summer jobs in parks or rural communities, to pursue Outdoor Recreation Programs in university or college, and to develop plans to explore the outdoors and the Ontario Parks system beyond their experiences at Agincourt C.I.. This Program has created a bond between these city kids and both rural Ontario and Quetico Park. As one of the students whose family is from China said, 'I was born here but I never really felt Canadian until this experience.'

On behalf of my students, I would like to thank The Quetico Foundation, Robin Riley, Park Superintendent, and the staff at Canoe Canada for making this trip possible. I can hardly wait to introduce a new group of students to the true value of Canadian wilderness in August 2008!

### SUMMER STUDENT RESEARCH PROGRAM

### RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS

*Last summer was by far the best summer of my life. Who I worked with as well as where I worked was an amazing combination. It was a blast and I really hope I can return next year!* – Beth Robinson

*The Quetico Foundation's summer student program is a brilliant opportunity. It is a mix of the beautiful nature of Quetico Park and an awesome selection of co-workers. We see Canada in its purest, most natural form; nothing is more breathtaking.* – Brian Luptak

*Amazing summer! It's hard to believe that this summer could have lived up to my first with the Foundation, but it did. We worked hard, but the canoeing, portaging and transects felt no more like work than our swimming, hiking, time around the fire, and sharing the beautiful sights of the Park together.* – Lis Boileau

*I could not imagine a better way to have spent this past summer. Right from the first day that we met, our group got along really well and shared the experience of a lifetime. This job was very unique because instead of doing work inside, we were able to paddle through Quetico Park and see beautiful places where we had never been before, all while collecting beneficial research for The Quetico Foundation. I would fully recommend a job in The Quetico Foundation's Summer Student Research Program to any students in the future. Thanks for an amazing summer!* – Todd Burton

*During the past 5 summers I've had the immense pleasure of working for the Summer Student Research Program. Starting as a junior Field Team Member after I graduated from Atikokan High School in 2003, I have gradually advanced over the last few years to Senior Field Team Member, Field Team Leader, and finally Program Coordinator. Working and living in Quetico has been a truly wonderful experience, and has provided endless memories that will last a lifetime. Additionally, thanks to this outstanding program, it has allowed me to develop many valuable skills, including resourcefulness, good judgment, and leadership. Canoeing, camping, and working in Quetico with fellow peers is a dream job, and I seriously believe that working for The Quetico Foundation's SSRP is the best job in the world.* – Jeremy Martin

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Canoe Day** - Get in training for the paddling season on Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Paddle the Grand River - Elora to Cambridge. Call the Foundation for more information.

**Annual Dinner** - Mark your calendars for our Annual Dinner at the Vaughan Estates on Wednesday October 22, 2008!

**MidWest Mountaineering Expo** - Come and visit us at the Ontario Parks booth at Midwest Mountaineering Expos in Minneapolis April 24-27, 2008.

## CONTACT US - PLEASE NOTE THAT WE'VE MOVED!

If you are interested in any of our programs, have concerns regarding the Park, or would like to support or become involved with The Quetico Foundation, please call us or email us at your convenience.

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AND HELP US CONSERVE OUR FORESTS!**

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