

# The Newsletter of The Queticboundation

# The QUETICO

Summer 2000

Vol. 45 Number 1



Photo: Ken Buchan

**THEBACK ROUTE:** No chain lounge is the world can compare to easing onto a properly placed PFD atop a gently gliding canoe slicing the waters of Quetico. The regular short rest during a busy day of paddling is an historic treat that goes back to the time of the voyageurs, though they had little worries of sun damage and UV ratings.

## A Shot in the Wilderness Park

*Sport hunting is being proposed in Ontario for Wilderness Parks such as Quetico*

By **KEN BUCHAN**  
*Freelance*

With no public consultation, the Ontario government has announced plans to change park policy to permit sport hunting in the province's wilderness parks, such as Quetico and Killarney. This fundamental policy change reverses decades of wildlife protection in Ontario's wilderness parks, which represent most of the large non-urban areas in Ontario where hunting is not permitted.

Since the introduction of the Primitive (now Wilderness) Park Classification in 1967, sport hunting has been prohibited in wilderness parks. Wilderness parks are defined in the 1978 Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies of the Ministry of Natural Resources as "substantial areas where the forces of nature are permitted to function freely and where visitors travel by non-mechanized means and experience expansive solitude, challenge and personal integration with nature".

In addition, wilderness parks serve as "benchmarks in both the earth and life sciences. Such benchmarks are essential to the measurement of long term evolutionary trends."

➤ Please see **HUNTING** on Page 4

## Chairman's Message

I think you will agree in reviewing this newsletter that the Foundation has been very actively engaged since we last communicated with you and that our ongoing activities will be putting great demands on the Foundation and its Trustees. I hope that we can count on your continued support.

Our summer student program is entering its fourth year and continues to draw kids from the local community and in particular all those who have been involved as participants. Last year we were able to integrate the program with the forest inventory project initiated by Jay Leather, the Park Superintendent, and tentative plans call for that involvement to continue if possible. Jay deserves a good deal of credit for initiating this program as a basic knowledge of what is in the Park is an essential tool for planning its future.

We are also moving ahead, albeit slower than both we and the Town of Odessa would like, to implement the Canoe Centre project. This initiative however is a major one and is critical to our view that all pieces of the planning process are in place before it is officially launched especially given the fact that The Quetico Foundation anticipates taking a major role, particularly in committing to raising the necessary financial support. Hopefully by the time of my next report to you this project will be truly underway.

Of particular concern to the Foundation is the recent announcement by the Ministry of Natural Resources that it intends to open up the possibility of hunting in wilderness parks with Quetico Park being one of the four wilderness parks under consideration.

We believe that any such undertaking violates the spirit of the Lands for Life process

and that any decision to permit hunting in wilderness parks would be absolutely contrary to the very notion of a wilderness park. The matter is being referred to the Ontario Parks Board and in due course we expect that the Foundation and the public in general will have an opportunity to make representations. We will continue to actively monitor developments but I would recommend anyone so inclined, to write to the Minister of Natural Resources and express opposition to this proposal.

On a somewhat lighter note, I am pleased to announce that sometime in the early fall we expect to have our annual dinner after an absence of a year. Frankly we have been struggling with trying to develop a format that will give us an opportunity to raise much needed financial support and at the same time will also be an enjoyable experience for our guests.

We feel that our recent dinners have fallen short of our supporters expectations and all too often have extended too long into the evening. Both of these deficiencies we hope to address to the satisfaction of our supporters.

Finally, I would like to share with you my excitement in appointing William B. Sargent (known as "Sarge") as our new Executive Director. Sarge brings a wealth of experience to the position and couples this with an enthusiasm and initiative which I believe is going to energize the Foundation to new heights of achievement.

R. Lee Woods  
Chairman



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*We welcome suggestions, photos, reminiscences and stories for consideration. Please forward any ideas or submissions to: Michael Peake, Editor, The Quetico, 14 Easton Road, Tron to M2N 2L5 or E-mail: michael.peake@home.com*

## The Quetico

A publication of The Quetico Foundation

Editor: Michael Peake

Additional copies of this newsletter can be obtained by writing The Quetico Foundation: 48 Yonge St., Suite 610, Toronto, Ontario M5E 1G6



## Working and studying in the wilds

### SUMMER STUDENT RESEARCH PROGRAM

Once again this year six high school students, from the Atikokan and Lac Seul First Nation, will be conducting forest ecology research in Quetico Provincial Park. The research data will provide input into the management plan review process to enhance the protection and sustainability of the forest resources of one of the world's truly great parks. The students and their Field Team Leaders travel by canoe into the interior of the park for periods of up to 10 days.

Leading the research fieldwork are **Carolyn Hobbie**, a graduate of McMaster University (Bachelor of Kinesiology/Geography/Environmental Studies) and **Queen's University (Bachelor of Education/Outdoor and Experiential Education)** and **Elena Johnson**, a graduate of University of Waterloo (Bachelor of Environmental Studies). In addition to their impressive academic and field research backgrounds, both Carolyn and Elena have extensive wilderness camping and leadership experience with youth in outdoor education settings. Assisting on a rotational basis as a Field Team Leader and serving as Quartermaster for the supplies and logistical arrangements is **Rachel White**. Rachel was one of the high school students in the 1998 Summer Student Research Program and is entering her second year at Lakehead University in Environmental Science.

**Fraser Reeves**, a Trustee of *The Quetico Foundation*, serves as Chairman of the Summer Student Research Program Committee. Since he spent several summers with the Ministry of Natural Resources in Northern Ontario supervising the Junior Ranger Program, Fraser brings a wealth of experience in helping to plan and to implement the involvement of the students in the Quetico Park research. Other Trustee members on the Committee include **Dave Elder**, Atikokan, who as a Ministry of Natural Resources employee had extensive involvement with Quetico and **Dr. Roger Staffing**, Associate Professor, School of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Waterloo. Dr. Staffing who has conducted research in Quetico Park and supervised graduate studies thesis

research in the park, is also Chairman of *The Quetico Foundation's* Scientific Advisory Committee.

The Foundation's Summer Student Research Program not only contributes important data for park planning and management, but also provides valuable personal development opportunities for the high school students and their leaders. If you would like to join the individuals, foundations and companies that fund the program, please contact the Executive Director at the Foundation Office.

### WORKING FOR WILDERNESS

Work as part of a team, under the guidance of expert leaders, to protect nature while exploring natural areas. Whether a weekend getaway or a longer break, it's a vacation that makes a difference.

### QUETICO PROVINCIAL PARK TALL PINE PROJECT AUGUST 25 TO SEPTEMBER 3, 2000

Canoe through breathtaking Quetico Provincial Park to conduct a survey of pine planted in 1990 and 1992. While in the park, volunteers will have the opportunity to view ancient pictographs along the rugged hills of Quetico Lake. Work will also include trail maintenance or reconstruction at an entry point to the park. After the trip, visitors may spend time viewing the sights around the park, such as the Steeprock Mine and the Souris River Canoe Company.

For more information, please contact:  
Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario  
M3B 2W8 Tel: (416) 444-8419 Toll-Free: 1-800-440-2366 Fax:  
(416) 444-9866  
E-mail: [wfw@ontariounature.org](mailto:wfw@ontariounature.org) Website: [www.ontariounature.org](http://www.ontariounature.org)



photo: Michael Pratt



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## Parks policy

# Mixing hunting and protected spaces

*Continued from Page ONE*

Clearly, with the introduction of sport hunting, wilderness parks will no longer function as a wildlife sanctuary or as ecological benchmarks. Hikers and canoeists will be at risk during the hunting season, and the solitude, which cannot be found elsewhere in the hunting season, will be lost.

Wilderness parks currently prohibit motorized vehicles, including automobiles, all terrain vehicles and motor boats except for some very restricted usage in some parks by First Nation people.

However, few sport hunters today are willing to haul carcasses of large animals such as moose over long distances on foot or by canoe. If wilderness parks are opened to hunting, there will inevitably be pressure from hunting groups to permit roads, motorized vehicles and float planes in order to remove carcasses.

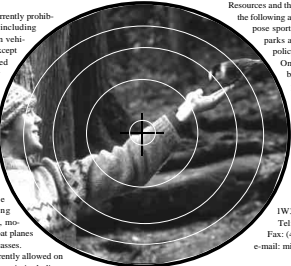
Sport hunting is currently allowed on most Crown land in Ontario including near wilderness parks. Thus, there is already ample opportunity for residents from local communities to hunt. This raises the question as to whether the introduction of hunting into wilderness parks is aimed to satisfy a demand from some outfitters who service non-Canadian trophy hunters.

The Ministry of Natural Resources proposes to make decisions on which wilderness parks should be opened to hunting on the basis of demonstrated

local support. This goes against the concept that provincial parks are held in trust for all the citizens of Ontario and that all citizens of the province have a say in the management of these important areas. Any change in policy should be made only after the support of the citizens of

was repeatedly reconfirmed over the years as Quetico became a Provincial Park (1913) and later a Wilderness Provincial Park (1973). Allowing hunting would overturn almost a century of wildlife protection in Quetico.

Please write to the Minister of Natural Resources and the Premier of Ontario at the following addresses in order to oppose sport hunting in wilderness parks and to demand that all policy decisions concerning Ontario provincial parks be made only after full public consultation across the Province.



Hon. John Sushelen  
Minister of Natural Resources  
Rm. 6301  
Whitney Block  
99 Wellesley St. W.  
Toronto, Ont. M7A 1W3  
Tel: (416) 314-2301  
Fax: (416) 314-2216  
e-mail: minister@mnr.gov.on.ca

Hon. Mike Harris  
Premier  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ont. M7A 1A1  
Tel: (416) 325-1941  
Fax: (416) 325-7578  
e-mail: webpremier@gov.on.ca

Ontario has been obtained through province-wide public consultation.

### QUETICO PARK

The prohibition on hunting in Quetico predates the introduction of wilderness class parks to the Ontario parks system by nearly six decades. Hunting was prohibited in Quetico at the time that it was first established as the Quetico Forest and Game Preserve in 1909. This status

Photo: Natural Parks

## Updates

### Adventure Story Contest

As the new Executive Director, taking orders for the canoe route map over the phone, it is fascinating listening to people tell about their adventures in Quetico. Please send us your most passionate, absurd, moving, hilarious, adventurous or challenging story of a non-fiction event that happened while you were in Quetico Provincial Park. Make your story no more than 750 words and include a photo if appropriate. Best of luck!

**Prize:** The winning entry will receive two (2) complimentary tickets to the Quetico Foundation Dinner in the fall of 2000 where you will be given an opportunity to read your story. The best three (3) stories will be posted on The Quetico Foundation Web Site and published in subsequent editions of our newsletter, *The QUETICO*.

**Closing Date:** All contest entries must be received by September 22, 2000.

**Send Entries To:** Quetico Adventure Story Contest c/o William B. "Sarge" Sargant Executive Director The Quetico Foundation 48 Yonge Street, Suite 610 Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5E 1G6 or E-mail: office@queticofoundation.org

### Wilderness Legacy

You can leave a Wilderness Legacy. Since 1954, The Quetico Foundation has been dedicated to the protection and stewardship of the wilderness values of Quetico Provincial Park. Holly protect one of the world's truly great wilderness experiences to enrich the lives of future generations.

For more information about the benefits of making a major gift or bequest, please reply to William B. "Sarge" Sargant Executive Director

The Quetico Foundation 48 Yonge Street, Suite 610 Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5E 1G6 (416) 941-9388 All inquiries will be kept confidential

### Shan Walsh Bursary

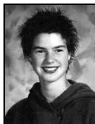
The Shan Walsh Memorial Bursary was established by The Foundation in 1991 to recognize the significant contribution of the late Shan Walsh, Naturalist, Quetico Provincial Park, to the protection and stewardship of Quetico Provincial Park.

The award is presented each year to high school students from Atikokan and/or Lac La Croix First Nation who are continuing their education at a community college or university. The award winners are selected by a committee from each of the respective high schools.

The 1999 award winners were Holly Armstrong and Rachel White, who each received \$500.00 from The Quetico Foundation.

#### Holly Armstrong

Holly recently completed her first year at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario where she is majoring in geology. She was a member of the Varsity Swimming Team while at Atikokan High School. Holly participated in the



Holly Armstrong

Portage Crew Volunteer helping clear portages from the storm damage in the park and providing information to park users. Also, she assisted with the evacuation of park users who became ill or suffered injuries. During July and August of 1999, Holly worked for The Quetico Foundation Summer Student Research Program collecting data for the Forest Resources Inventory Project.

#### Rachel White

Rachel recently completed her first year at Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario

where she is majoring in Environmental Science. During the summer of 1999, Rachel worked as a Natural Heritage Educator in Quetico Provincial Park conducting nature hikes, interpretive programs and other activities for park users.

The previous year, she worked for The Quetico Foundation Summer Student Research Program collecting data for the forest fire ecology study undertaken by Dr. Roger Saffling, University of Waterloo. During this summer, Rachel has been hired by The Quetico Foundation as a Quaternary Field Crew Leader for the Summer Student Research Program.

Rachel is an active volunteer in the community of Atikokan assisting with the organizing of fundraising events and coaching volleyball. She is also a graduate of the Atikokan High School Outers Program that has introduced students to the wilderness values of Quetico Provincial Park.

### From the Wild to the Tame

On Thursday, April 27, 2000, A. George Fells, a former Chairman and current Trustee of The Quetico Foundation hosted a Reception at Woolfit's Gallery in Toronto to open a two week exhibit and sale of his Monograms.

The Opening Reception was a fundraising event with George donating 40 percent of the sale of Monograms to The Quetico Foundation. The event which also featured a display about The Quetico Foundation raised over \$3000.00 to support the Summer Student Research Program.

### Dinner Alert

It is now the time to mark your calendars and diaries. The timing of the Quetico Foundation Fall Dinner has been set. The date (the evening of Wednesday October 25, 2000) at the Ontario Club in downtown Toronto. Program and pricing is still being set but please plan now to attend. For further information will follow in a special Fall Dinner mailing.

## Donations

### Gratefully received

The following is a list of donors for the period between January 1, 1998 and May 30, 2000. The wishes of those who notified The Quetico Foundation of their choice to remain anonymous have, to the best of our ability, been respected. If your name should be here and is not, or otherwise, we apologize. Please let us know of any changes that should be made. Your support in helping The Quetico Foundation to achieve its mandate related to the protection and stewardship of Quetico Provincial Park and other wilderness parks in Ontario is sincerely appreciated.

#### \$10 - \$99

Madeleine Brain  
John and Betty Ann Bankes  
John M. Bankes  
Bruce Barker  
Debra Bilbas  
Kenneth Buchan  
Robert Curman  
Jennifer Covello  
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#### \$100 - \$499

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Anonymous  
Roger Suffling

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#### \$10,000 - \$24,999

Dalgligh Family Foundation\*  
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#### \$25,000

Richard Ivey Foundation

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Borlen Luder Gervais, Barristers and Solicitors  
A. George Fells

\* Donations in 1998 and 1999  
\* Donations in 1998, 1999 and 2000.

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### A Quetico Moment



Second Cache Bay cabin on the southeast point of Cache Bay. The cabin was built in 1938. It was a very exposed location for aircraft landings so the next and present cabin was built on an island in Cache Bay in the 1950's. [Lloyd Raven collection].

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#### The Quetico

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