



Spring 2008

The Journal of Canadian Wilderness Canoeing

Outfit 132

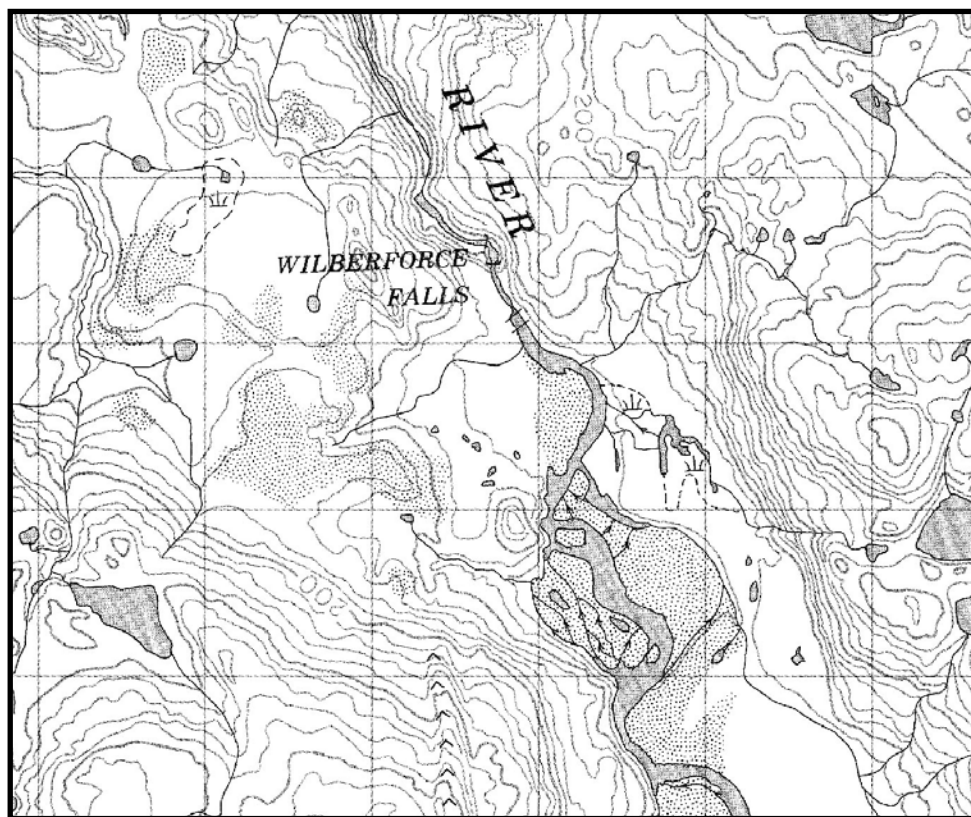
Lands Reborn



photo: George Douglas

NOTMAN'S DYKE - A solitary canoe, piercing into a vanishing wilderness untouched by time, heads up the Dease River in the late summer of 1911. George Douglas and August Sandberg were making their first foray in these forlorn lands where they would meet traditional Inuit and search for the riches of the Coppermine across the bounds of history. Douglas' rare 1914 book, *Lands Forlorn* is being reprinted with all the photos and an updated forward to properly place this book in its unique moment of history. Douglas called this spot Notman's Dyke, perhaps alluding to, William Notman, the famed late 19th century photographer. See page 6.

Spring Packet

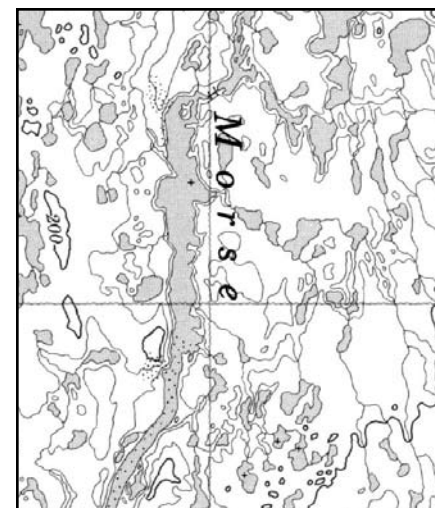


This is a fabulous resource and I can only imagine what Eric Morse and his group would think of such incredible technology.

Of course the problem is printing them. Only a high scale plotter could print these maps a proper size but there is nothing stopping you from cropping out the sections you need and making smaller one. We used to do it that way on our 50-plus day trips when a huge pile of maps would often accumulate especially when you added in 1:50,000 maps we would get for tricky crossings or difficult areas in headwaters.

The government is to be congratulated for such a superb use of the Internet's resources. If you don't know the number of the map you want simply go to the searchable database and you can search by feature name, latitude and longitude, or it will show a clickable map of Canada. This web page is found at http://maps.nrcan.gc.ca/topo_metadata/index_e.php

Naturally, one of the first maps we checked out was the Morse River (66F4) and Wilberforce Falls on the Hood (76N02) which the HACC still has yet to see. Enjoy!



We're not sure how many of you know about this "secret" website but it was news to us and we found it incredibly exciting. The ability to access Canadian topographic maps online has been around for a while. But with maps that were not the real topo maps that you could purchase. Now the real ones are available online..

Canada's entire 1:50,000 and 1:250,000 map database has been scanned at 300 dpi and is available for free from the Natural Resources Canada website. The ftp site is bare bones to look at but absolutely loaded with hundreds of high quality Canadian topographic maps technically known as digital raster maps.

The site address is <http://ftp2.cits.nrcan.gc.ca/pub/canmatrix/> This is an ftp (file transfer protocol) site meant for moving large image files which explains the sparse look. They are sorted according to the usual mapping protocol and when you download the stuffed file it should extract onto your computer. Each opened map comes in around 60 meg and that is at 300 dpi which is very good quality. I found they could benefit from a little tweaking and some sharpening.

The first page shows links to the 1:250,000 and 1:50,000 series and you can follow the links and levels until you reach the map you are looking for.



Editor's Notebook

It certainly was a long hard winter here in eastern Canada that reminded me of those of 30 years ago. The ample snows have quickly melted and the lakes have opened as the delights of Spring await. And the hope of much meltwater in the northern lands thanks to lots of snow which I hope will replenish my beloved Georgian Bay somewhat. My winter was helped along by the two cords of dried hardwood I bought and stacked last December in one long Thoreau-inspired log day. I used almost one half of it this winter.

I never tire of a real fire, there is something primal about its lure and aroma. I do realize that environmentally it is not the preferred option these days but I will take solace in the fact that wood has been burned for millions of years on this planet.

Something a bit different for the HACC this year. Sort of an HACC:TNG - The Next Generation. Instead of a northern trip we will introduce our children to one of the basic building blocks of such northern trips. Lake Superior was such for the likes of Bill Mason and Eric Morse as well as the Hide-Away Canoe Club.

We will return to the spectacular shores of Pukaskwa National Park on Superior's east coast this July. My son Tom, now 12 and heading back to Camp Hurontario for a third summer will be joined by HACC Chief Guide Geoffrey Peake and family who now live in Shanghai, a long way from Superior. HACC Chaplain Peter Scott and son Ethan, 10, will be there along with Ginny Peake, 13, brother Sean's youngest (Sean is stuck at work). We even might coax our Quartermaster David Andrew Peake out of retirement for this generational journey.

The years are passing quickly, timeless moments on the inland sea are jewels to be treasured. Here's hoping you find some treasure of your own.

Michael Peake.



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Canoesworthy

Despite persistent doubts among hikers and campers venturing into bear country, you're better off with an eight-ounce can of bear spray than a gun, according to an analysis of 20 years of data. Canadian and American researchers in March found that they found the spray stopped aggressive bear behaviour in 92 per cent of the cases, whether that behaviour was an attack or merely rummaging for food. Guns were effective about 67 per cent of the time.

Brigham Young University bear biologist Thomas Smith, along with Stephen Herrero, bear expert and professor emeritus at the University of Calgary, and their research team report their findings in the April issue of the Journal of Wildlife Management. The researchers analyzed reported bear encounters in Alaska involving 175 people.

"Working in the bear safety arena, I even found a lot of resistance to bear spray among professionals," Smith said in a release. "There was no good, clean data set that demonstrated definitively that it worked, so that's why we did this research."

Shooting accurately during the terrifying split seconds of a grizzly charge is very hard thing to do, Smith pointed out, and his data suggests that it takes an average of four hits to stop a bear.

The research also debunked some myths about bear spray, including the common belief that wind interferes with its accuracy and it can disable the person using it. The researchers found wind interfered with spray accuracy in five of the 71 incidents studied, although the spray reached the bear in all cases.

Smith used a wind meter to test the speed of the spray as it streams out of the canister. Repeated tests showed an average of 112 kilometres per hour. In the 71 incidents documented in the study, users reported minor irritation 10 times and near incapacitation twice. There were no reports of the spray malfunctioning. The average distance at which the bear spray was used was 3.5 metres.

Nearly 70 per cent of the incidents involved grizzlies with most of the remainder involving black bears. The study also documents the first two reported incidents involving polar bears. Smith believes one of the primary reasons bear spray works is that it gives users a reason to stand their ground. Running is the worst response to an aggressive bear.

Still, the study contains an important caveat about the use of bear spray. Researchers found 11 incidents when the residue of bear spray applied to objects like tents, with the intent to repel bears, backfired and attracted them.

British adventurer Hannah McKeand has become a staunch supporter of the Canadian search and rescue system after being plucked off the polar ice cap, 209 kilometres northwest of Alert, Nunavut on March 23.

"The triple 4 squadron boys were amazing," says Ms. McKeand of the team from 444 Combat Support Squadron, 5 Wing Goose Bay that rescued her. The extreme voyager set off from Ward Hunt Island, Nunavut 14 days earlier in an effort to become the first woman to ski to the North Pole. She intended to pull 120 kilograms of gear on a sled across almost 500 miles of some of the harshest environment on earth without being re-supplied over the course of her 60-day journey.

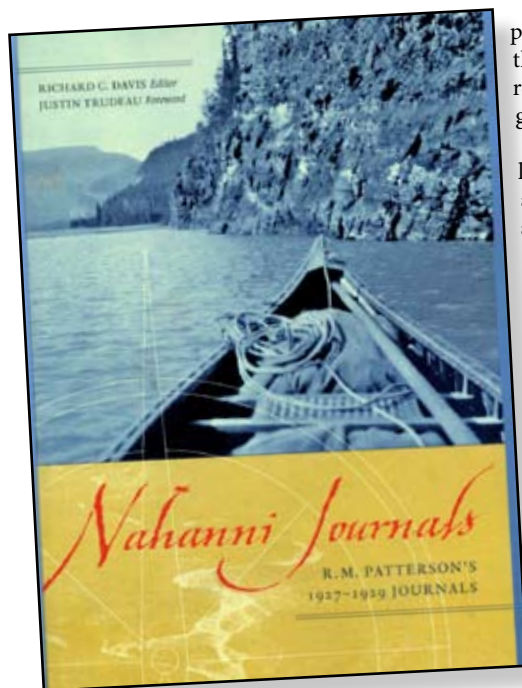
Unfortunately, two weeks into the trek, she fell into an eight-foot-deep crevasse, dislocating her shoulder and injuring her legs and lower back. "I had a bit of an emotional crisis down there and cried like a baby because I thought 'this is it. I'm not going to make it out alive.'"

After calming herself down and focusing on ways to get out of the hole, Ms. McKeand fought to free herself and after an hour was able to climb out of the crevasse, despite her injuries. It was then that she realized she would not be able to continue.

Although Ms. McKeand had made arrangements for civilian aircraft to rescue her in an emergency, it became apparent a helicopter was her only way out. It was pure luck the squadron was in the area, having just finished some repairs to some communications equipment near Canadian Forces Station Alert.

Ms. McKeand called her team in the United Kingdom by satellite phone to ask for help and

◆ CANOESWORTHY continues on Page 11



Nahanni Journals

R.M. Patterson's 1927-1929 Journals

Edited by Richard C. Davis

University of Alberta Press, 225 pp 2008

\$29.95 ISBN: 0-88864-477-9

Ray Patterson is an iconic figure, strongly associated with the noble Nahanni River and his book, *Dangerous River*, remains a classic in northern writing.

As any researcher knows well - to get the real truth you must go right back to the original source, the handwritten journals. As in a court case, these are the invaluable documents that tell it like it really was. In this case Richard C. Davis, a University of Calgary professor and his graduate students have done a superb job of getting to the true story of *Dangerous River*. And while they're puncturing a legend, they release a real person whose story is just as compelling and interesting.

Davis provides a superb Prologue to this collection of the river journals of Patterson which made up his famous book. In a highly readable and informative way, Davis recounts the "other story" of that trip, the real one where R.M. never did get to see Virginia Falls on that first trip up the Nahanni, much less being almost sucked into it as the book suggests.

As a young man just over from England, Patterson was embarking on an epic journey, going

passing from a green and pleasant land into the dark, rushing canyons of a completely remote and seldom seen river. What a dangerous thrill that must have been!

His journals are written as an extended letter to his mother, with frequent personal and contemporary references that Davis and his class have all tracked down and covered. They are also revealing of a sensitive viewer with a lovely turn of phrase. Here describing the morning of August 14, 1927, "A glorious day - never have I seen such a spell of wonderful weather as on this river - the warm afternoon sunshine seems to go clean through you & the scents of the woods can never be forgotten in years to come."

Proper journals from a trip give you a look into what really happened. You will not find an entry anywhere in *Dangerous River*, published 27 years later,

about Patterson trying to figure out how to flip his canoe over his head to portage his canoe for the first time in a method which has been described to him!

He was not always alone. He met and later teamed up with legendary Albert Faille, who Sisyphus odyssey was repeated for decades all without finding that motherlode. We also get a more intimate look at Gordon Matthews with whom Patterson overwintered on the Flat River, a tributary of the Nahanni.

There is also a fascinating bonus, completely left out of *Dangerous River*. Patterson's return trip that first year was a harrowing solo dash on deserted trails though a thick interior to beat the oncoming winter.

This book features many original photos and 30 pages of annotations to explain every reference. Davis also tells the story of how the book came about - almost three decades after the fact - and it is a fascinating tale. Patterson had undoubtedly regaled many of his guests at his famed Buffalo Head ranch over the years with his stories from the Nahanni. But perhaps the work of a young Pierre Berton whose sensational *Edmonton Journal* story of the Headless Valley in 1947, prompted a piece to appear later that year in *The Beaver* magazine penned by Patterson on his Nahanni trip. That planted the seed for *Dangerous River*.

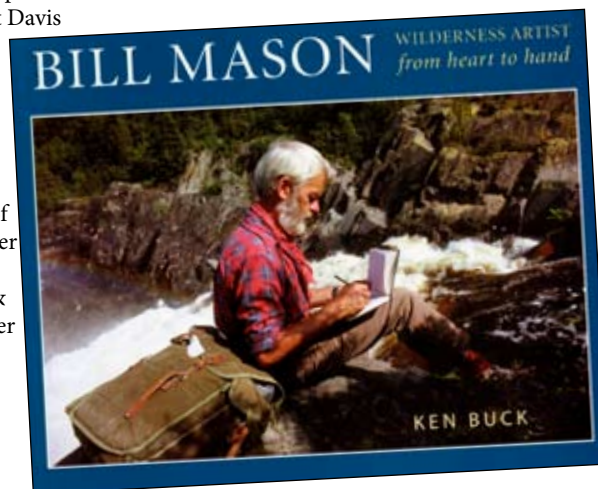
We are much indebted to Prof. Davis and his class for breathing new life into a living legend without harming it.

Bill Mason Wilderness Artist from heart to hand

By Ken Buck

Rocky Mountain Books 368pp 2005

\$39.99 ISBN: 1-894765-60-5



Not really sure how I missed this book the first time? Ken Buck's personal reminiscences of Bill Mason came out in 2005 and I never noticed it.

One quick look at this book tells you it is in the same design as Mason's groundbreaking *Path of the Paddle* and later *Song of the Paddle*. Ken Buck should be a familiar name to anyone who reads the credits of a Bill Mason film. Buck was Bill's longtime cameraman and collaborator on most of his classic movies. He's the one who filmed that very dramatic sequence of a frigid Mason trying to swim to shore from a dumped canoe on an angry Lake Superior.

This book, which I found tremendously interesting and entertaining, is the view of Bill looking back through the viewfinder. It's the visual depiction of a visual artist and follows Bill through his career in advertising, freelance canoeist and filmmaker and National Film Board of Canada superstar.

There is a huge amount of behind the picture stories on films ranging from *Rise and Fall of the Great Lakes* to *Waterwalker* and the *Path of the Paddle* series - all profusely illustrated. It also features a number of Bill's full-coloured specialties - fold out and funny greeting cards.

As Bill's proper biographer Jim Raffan points out on the back cover, "It completes the Mason canon." And that canon can still be heard as loud today. After reading this I went online to order a bunch of Mason DVDs, many of which I already had on my now-extinct VHS.



All Things are Possible

The Verlen Kruger Story

By Phil Peterson Sr.

Adventure Publications, 2008

\$35 ISBN: 978-1-59193-138-6

Verlen Kruger was quite a character study, and people like that usually make for good biography fodder. Coming of canoeing age through the early 70's I was always aware of Kruger's epic voyages and often remarked he was the only paddler with an odometer in his boat.

I got to meet him once and see his presentation on the Two Continent Canoe Expedition trip. He was clearly a complicated man whose first biography featured a large shot of a bible-toting Verlen, his large family (nine children) and devoted wife Jenny, whom he ended up leaving for a much younger Valerie Fons who accompanied him on later trips. He did go back to Jenny in the end.

The book is well written and presented with a large number of good photos and archival info. Author Peterson was a friend of Verlen's but does not shy away from his many defects.

For Verlen, the problem with these epic trips is that they would always end and he was clearly a man obsessed. Even though on one trip on the White River near Lake Superior, his friend and trip partner, Jerry Cesar died in a May 1975 accident, Verlen carried on with paddling but later took his late friend's son on the river.



Verlen got a late start into marathon paddling, well into his forties and his first major trip was the 1971 Cross Continent Canoe Safari with Clint Waddell from Montreal to the Bering Sea in one season. They did it - and that began a series of amazing trips with an ever-increasing length and scale. Verlen certainly proved one thing - that you can do almost anything you set your mind to though few would have a mindset as rigorous as his.

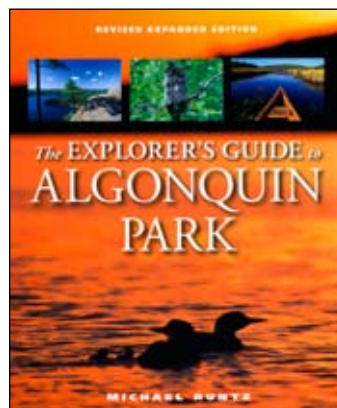
Explorer's Guide to Algonquin Park

By Michael Runtz

Boston Mills Press, 224pp 2008

ISBN: 978-1-550046-498-6

Ontario's Algonquin Park continues to get widespread attention. There is even a mile marker for it on the thickest sections of Toronto's expressways and a recent poll rated it as one of the world's top secret get-



ways. With more than a million visitors a year, that secret's not a very well kept one.

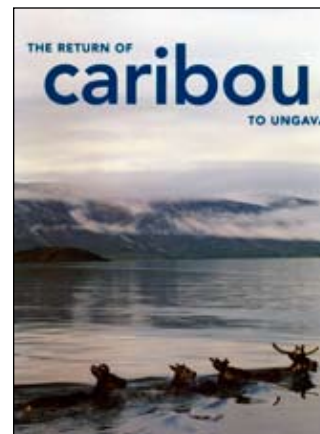
To most people in southern Ontario, it is simply known as "The Park."

This very useful book first appeared in 1993, the 100th anniversary of Ontario's original provincial park. Michael Runtz, a former Algonquin naturalist clearly loves the place and knows many of it's best secrets. This revised and expanded edition is loaded with great pictures, maps and park info.

This is not a canoe book or a route guide but rather an overall appreciation of this great park which is just three hours drive from Toronto, except on Friday nights! Runtz wrote and did all the photos, some of them superb. My favourite is an aerial shot of a winding creek amidst a vast ridge of trees ablaze in autumn colours.

The book describes Algonquin's many natural regions as it sits just below the Canadian Shield in a wide area of mixed hardwood forest contained in its 3000 sq. miles. Runtz takes the readers across the breadth of it detailing hiking trails, points of interest, historical remnants. some excellent maps of each access point and all kinds of ideas on how to see the often abundant wildlife.

Since Highway 60 goes through the Park's south corridor, it can get a fair bit of traffic. That highway corridor is a great place to spot moose, especially in the Spring when they are hungry for salt which they find along the side of the road. You know you will always find a moose or two when you spot a stopped car along the side of the highway.



The Return of Caribou to Ungava

By A.T. Bergerud, S. Luttich & I. Camps

McGill-Queens Press, 586pp 2008

\$49.95 ISBN: 978-0-7735-3233-5

The doorstep of a book is no mainstream publication but if Ungava caribou are of interest to you, then so is the book. Filled with charts, graphs and Latin names, *The Return of Caribou to Ungava* is an academic study of the famed George River herd and others in northern Quebec.

It is also very nice to see the term Ungava, which means 'far away', used here. It has seemingly disappeared under the more recent Nunavik name for northern Quebec. One of the interesting things for mere mortal canoeists are the references to paddlers who after all, are present on the waterways over the decades. Flaherty, Rousseau, Hubbard and Cabot are all mentioned in this voluminous work.

Having canoed the wonderful George River a couple of times and also having done three traverses of the Ungava Peninsula, my one great regret is never having seen the throng of the famed George River caribou herd which, as this book points out, have the widest spreading antlers in North America. We missed them by a day or so in 1983 as they were west of Indian House Lake and while we saw scattered 'bou all around, never the big herd. And it is a big one numbering up to 700,000 in 1988 and varying quite a lot over a few years - all the way down to 15,000 in 1958.

The book also features 36 lovely colour photos showing caribou in all seasons including shots from their calving grounds high in the hills above the wolves. While this is an academic book, there is much here for the northern canoeist who wants to know more about one of the great animal migrations in the world.



Lands Reborn

The George Douglas classic 1914 northern narrative, *Lands Forlorn*, is finally being reprinted thanks to a former Geological Survey of Canada scientist and photographer, Robert Hildebrand. A new facsimile edition with an extended Foreword comes out this Spring to the delight of the many fans of the hard to find treasure,



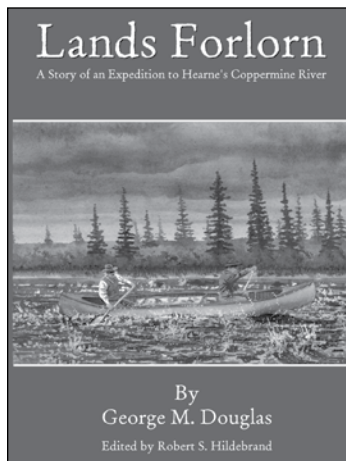
Photo: Michael Peake

EIGHTY YEARS ON -- HACC members David Peake, Peter Brewster and Peter Scott (front) stand in the remains of the cabin that George Douglas and two others overwintered in at the mouth of the Dease River at Great Bear Lake in July of 1991, 80 years exactly from when the Douglas party arrived there enroute to the Coppermine.

By MICHAEL PEAKE
Editor

It is a rare event for *Che-Mun* to write about a new book that we have never had in our hands. But this is no ordinary publishing event, though for the vast majority of the North American reading public, the re-publication of a dusty 1914 northern adventure book will pass by without a ripple.

But the rebirth of *Lands Forlorn* is a signature event for most people reading these pages. The 1914 George Douglas book, long praised here, will live again shortly thanks to the work of a fellow photographer and former Geological Survey of Canada scientist named Robert Hildebrand who now lives in Arizona - also a place George Douglas spent time in. He got to know



Mrs. Douglas many years ago and secured the rights to re-publish the book so many years later.

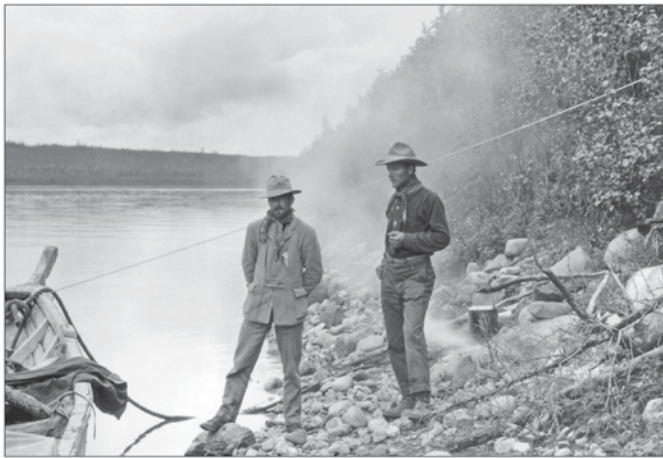
Now an accomplished landscape photographer, and combined with his northern travel and geological experience, Hildebrand was the perfect person to get this project through. He spent many hours updating the research and obtained the original photos from the National Archives which he later enhanced and improved upon.

While Hildebrand is not a canoeist and has not paddled the Douglas route he does have extensive northern geological experience and knows the world George Douglas moved about in for so many years. He has also contributed a lengthy Foreword to the book. While I have not seen the finished version, I did see an early unedited version which certainly contained a great deal of biographical information about



able trouble and personal influence, and the offer of high wages, Mr. Gaudet succeeded in getting together a crew of local Indians for us.

Six men were all he could get; including ourselves this made a short-handed crew to track a York boat up that swift river, but our load was



Lion and the Doctor

fortunately not a heavy one for the size of the boat; we had 3 1/2 tons of stuff all told, and the *Jupiter* drew about eighteen inches of water. Four or five inches of this was keel, and a confounded nuisance that keel was to us before we got to Bear Lake, and very little use after, except perhaps that it afforded extra strength to our ship on one occasion when it was badly needed.

Saturday, July 8th, was the day fixed for our start. We decided to leave the *Procyon*, one of our canoes, at Fort Norman, as it might be neces-

sary for us to leave the country by way of the Porcupine and Yukon Rivers. We saw her safely bestowed in the care of the Hudson Bay Co., said goodbye to our friends at the post, and returned to our ship to await the crew. By 3 P.M. they showed up in a big birch canoe that they brought to return



Our Indian Crew

to Fort Norman in when we got to Bear Lake. Their names, or at least the names by which we knew them, were Lixie Trindle, Clement, Samuel, David Wright, Horatio, and François. Lixie Trindle was the only one who knew a little English. He was the captain of the outfit till we got to Bear Lake, and although he had not been given a particularly good reputation we found him a reliable and a hard worker. Samuel was the humourist of the party; he had a broad heavy face with a singularly fatuous expression. We never knew what his jokes were about, probably they were at

Two sample pages of Chapter 3 posted to the landsforlorn.com website shows the look of the new book is exactly like the old but with better photo reproduction.

Douglas and his party that was new to me and proved the author had done his homework.

As far as I can see from the look of the book it will retain the original size but will feature a new cover. The first edition had the name and a subtitle in gold print on a blue background with a line art depiction of a dogsled though it was very hard to make out exactly what it was. Hildebrand commissioned a new painting for the cover which looks good but not great. The river would appear to be the Dease and I believe it would have been better to recreate the Douglas photo from the book which shows Dr. Sandberg tracking the canoe up the river. But this is a small point to quibble about. Indeed I had thoughts of undertaking this project myself which would have been hard considering he held the rights but Hildebrand did us all a great service in finally getting this published.

The book costs \$39.95 US and be available

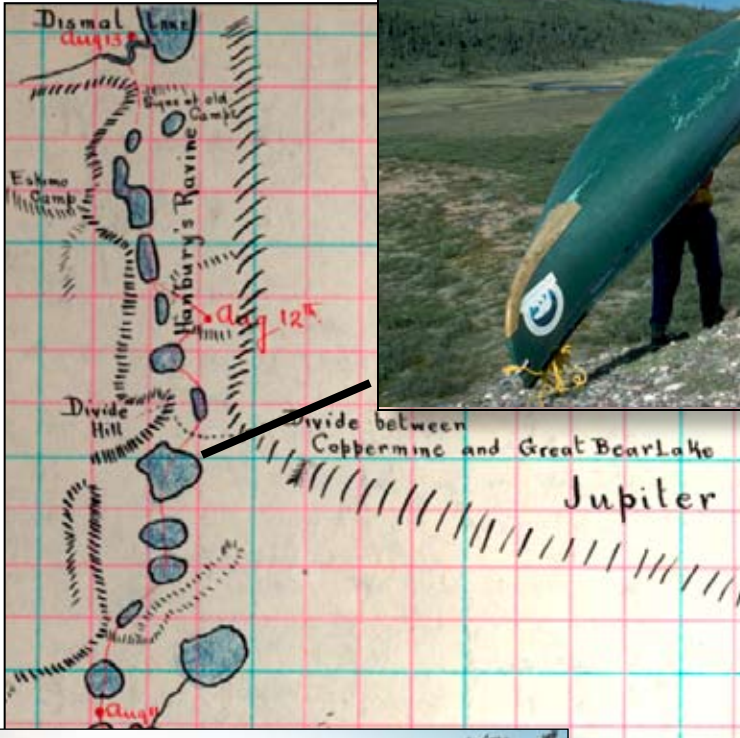


through the website that Hildebrand created - www.landsforlorn.com. This small site is a real treat as it not only tells of the book but offers a quality PDF of Chapter 3 for people to get an idea. We will update readers on other availability when it comes out which should be in May or June.

A surprise bonus with this project, and downloadable from the website, is the collection of hand drawn coloured field maps of the journey made by Douglas and never seen by me before. The HACC, has a copy of a handmade Douglas map showing the route up the Dease.

Very few people have followed the footsteps and paddle trails of George Douglas (shown left in a self-portrait made in his Dease River cabin) but thousands have been moved by his unique vantage point of a world that was about to change forever, for both the Inuit and themselves. His photographs, comments and observations, however, are timeless.

Putting a picture to the new found Douglas maps on the route from Great Bear Lake to the Coppermine River.



One of Hildebrand's finds was the set of hand drawn maps Douglas made in the field that were not included in the book. This maps shows the final portage into the Dismal Lakes, the prominent feature of which is the large hill that marks the divide between Great Bear Lake and the Coppermine. Note the comparatively lush vegetation on the south facing slope, it was where Douglas met a family of Inuit. The photo shows the HACC making the long portage in 1991



Looking upstream on the Coppermine River from Douglas' Boulder Bed Camp. This was the spot where the Douglas party was on foot in April 1912 with dogs when the Coppermine began to melt causing Douglas to build a canoe frame and make two paddles. The HACC found and returned one of those paddles to Mrs. Douglas in 1992.





Dealing with NUranium

Mining, long a staple in Canada's far north is growing at record levels. Pushed by a worldwide boom in commodity prices, the business of ore extraction is an old one, but with a new twist. Uranium, which for many years was off the table in the far north is now being seen in upcoming proposals.

And now, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI), the company that oversees land claims money and development, is getting into the uranium business. Their new mining policy, approved this autumn, supports uranium mining, as long as it doesn't harm Inuit, wildlife or the environment. The policy overturned a long-standing ban on mining uranium that was introduced after Baker Lake residents overwhelmingly voted against the development of the Kiggavik uranium mine in 1990.

Canada's north is now stranger to the radioactive mineral. One of the first such mines, Port Radium in the southeast corner of Great Bear Lake produced the uranium which went into the Hiroshima atomic bomb in 1945. It was a subject of great concern to the Dene of the area who not only mined tonnes of the material and suffered deaths from very high cancer rates and were terribly ashamed of the damage it did and even met the families of those who were bombed.

And recent developments which were hopeful of protecting the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary seem to have fallen apart making that sacred area a potential target. One northern correspondent commented, "The prospects for the upper Thelon just took a major turn for the worse. The federal government has just announced that it is going to replace two members of the environmental Review Board: Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott, the former chair, and elder Charlie Snowshoe.

"These were by far the most sympathetic ears to aboriginal/ecological interests on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB), and their removal does not bode well. The federal government seems to be trying to ensure that decisions like last year's rejection of UR-Energy's proposal are not repeated. This will make it much more difficult for the four current Environmental Assessments for Uravan and Bayswater activity in the upper Thelon region. The only hope for a change is if the Conservatives lose the upcoming

election – otherwise, we can probably kiss the upper Thelon good-bye."

In Fort Smith, veteran wilderness canoe guide **Alex Hall**, who is a staunch supporter of protecting valuable lands wrote *Che-Mun* recently with an update on the North West Territories' situation which typically was good news/bad news.

"I had gotten news re uranium prospecting on the Thelon from my man inside Treaty 8. By the way, this is in reference to the mineral claims on the 100 miles of the upper Thelon River between the Elk-Thelon junction and the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary. Virtually, the entire Thelon watershed upriver from there was protected as of Nov 21, 2007.

"But I'm afraid the news isn't nearly as good as the Indian & Northern Affairs man in Fort Smith led me to believe. He told me all the uranium prospecting companies on the upper Thelon River have pulled out. That's not the case. My Treaty 8 man tells me Uravan has left as its permit has expired, but this company is looking to secure two new permits. As well, Bayswater is looking for two new permits, all within close proximity to the river. All of these applications have been referred to environmental assessments so it looks at this point that everyone will have to go through the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Environmental Assessment hearings again in a couple of months--just as we did for UR Energy, in January, 2007 (UR Energy failed to get permission for its drilling program as a result of those hearings). My friend in Treaty 8 says this is "annoying to have to do this all over again, but nobody said protecting land was easy."

Nunavut's first uranium mine is closer to becoming a reality, with owners of the Kiggavik and Sissons sites saying construction could begin as early as 2011. The potential for uranium mining has long been controversial among Baker Lake Inuit, who successfully stopped a German company from opening a mine at Kiggavik in a 1990 plebiscite.

Areva Resources Canada Inc. plans to begin a two-year feasibility site this summer at the two uranium properties, located about 80 kilometres west of Baker Lake. If the company's

proposal for the Kiggavik-Sissons mine is approved, Areva could start construction as early as 2011 and start production around 2015.

Up to 600 workers would be needed for construction. After that, about the same number would be needed for production, which would include surface and underground mining and operation of an on-site mill. He added that Areva currently has about 50 per cent aboriginal staff working at its mines in northern Saskatchewan. Construction of the proposed mine is estimated to cost up to \$1.5 billion.

In another deal where they were offered a piece of the actions with Kaminak Gold Corp, which also mines uranium and has several stalled and old projects in their files, NTI would get one million shares of the new company, which has not yet been named. It's unclear how big a piece of the company this will be, as the total number of shares has not yet been announced.

NTI would also get an annual payment of \$50,000 in royalties, as the owner of subsurface rights to the land. So with all this development and all the money from the record high prices, how can people refuse. But as we saw in James Bay, it is no guarantee of immediate success.

There is some good news. Last fall the WWF announced that over 10 million hectares of pristine wilderness in the Mackenzie River Basin have been protected from industrial development. This withdrawal of land and water from industrial activity, announced by the Government of Canada, was made at the request of local First Nations. This interim protection, for a period of four to five years, will allow local people to plan areas for permanent protection around Great Slave Lake and along a northern stretch of the Mackenzie River in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

But the key word here is 'interim' and with people changing on the review board – what does that mean? To the cynic, it is an effective stalling tactic. Massive world economic pressures are being brought to bear. The ticking you hear is from more than the uranium.

You can check on the progress of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board at www.mvierd.nt.ca, they have a regular newsletter with some updates.



You Che-Mun subscribers are an incredible group of people. We are happy to help promote a couple of recent projects by two of them, David Pelly and Al Pace. David has a new book coming out and Al is mounting Legacy Wild, a month-long exhibit of his superb canoe-related pottery at the Canadian Canoe Museum right now.

Much has been written about the early exploration of the Northwest Passage and some of the overland routes used to map and explore the northern reaches of Canada. But the central travel corridor into what remains today the heart of Canada's northern wilderness—the old way north—remains shrouded in mystery and uncelebrated, its natural and cultural history largely unknown.

Long before the arrival of the first whites, the Chipewyan (Dene) used the old way north to follow the herds of migrating caribou. In the late

nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, this travel corridor, which stretches from Reindeer Lake in Manitoba north to the barrenlands in what is today Nunavut, was an important access route for those intrepid travelers who opened the North. In the spring of 1912, Ernest Oberholtzer—largely responsible for the creation of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Ontario and Minnesota—and Billy Magee, an Anishinaabe companion, set off on a five month canoe expedition following the old way north, a route that was still largely unmapped. Oberholtzer's observations

provide us with a window into the way it was, before the changes that came shortly after his passage.

Using Oberholtzer's journals as a narrative thread, author David Pelly transports readers through the history of this wilderness and introduces them to the mapmakers, fur traders and trappers, missionaries, and Native peoples who relied on this corridor for trade and travel. Among the many surprises he explores is the contact, unique to this region, between the Dene and Inuit, who both lived and traveled here. Through journals, historical records, personal interviews with Dene and Inuit, and present-day canoeing accounts, Pelly reconstructs the many tales heretofore hidden in this land. David Pelly has been traveling and living in the Arctic since the late 1970s.

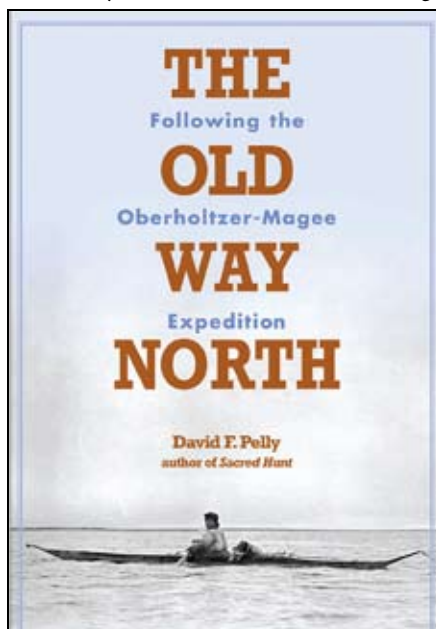
He is the author of several articles and books on the land and its people, including *Thelon: A River Sanctuary* and *Sacred Hunt: A Portrait of the Relationship between Seals and Inuit*.

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Since 1977, I believed my time exploring Canada's northern wilderness by canoe was a deeply personal and entirely private experience. After years of struggling to separate my creative studio work from my wilderness adventures, I finally relented and let my two worlds collide in full force. My pottery designs reflect the textures and rhythms of the mysterious northern landscape." ~ Allan Pace - Studio Potter

Allan Pace creates distinctively Canadian stoneware vessels at his log studio in scenic Hockley Valley near Orangeville, Ontario. Al and his wife, Lin Ward are avid wilderness paddlers and licensed river guides. Together they have explored 12,000 river miles on 58 arctic expeditions in Canada's Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Legacy Wild is an exhibition of bold stoneware vessels (like the beautiful pottery canoe featured below) inspired by Al's 30 year arctic odyssey.



Legacy Wild will ignite your wilderness spirit with stunning photographs, slide lectures, concerts and literary events which celebrate the wild places Al & Lin have felt so privileged to explore. With the recent recognition of the canoe as one of the Seven Wonders of Canada, we are especially pleased to have The Canadian Canoe Museum providing such a historic and compelling environment for Legacy Wild.

The show opens on May 10 with HRH The Duke of York doing the honours. Prince Andrew was a schoolmate of Al at Lakefield College School near Peterborough and is a Patron of the Canoe Museum. They did the Coppermine River at the end of Lakefield and have paddled together occasionally since, including last summer on the Mountain River.

Each Saturday there will be a slide show and talk featuring Al and wife Lin Ward and others including photographer Rob Stimpson and son Taylor Pace along with Michael Peake of *Che-Mun* who will be showing a new all-digital presentation; *Northern Journeys with the Hide-Away Canoe Club* on May 24.

The museum also shuffled some chairs lately and appointed Dr. James Raffan as the Executive Director of the facility - a bump up from Curator. Also in the shuffling mode was veteran canoeist and educator David Thompson who will leave Greenwood College in Toronto to take over as Head of School at Lakefield this summer.

Explore www.legacywild.com or call 1-888-941-6654 for exhibition and event details.



CANOESWORTHY *continued*

within hours heard the comforting sound of a helicopter coming over the horizon. The Canadian Air Force employs approximately 700 people in search and rescue and has members posted at various SAR squadrons across the country. Every year, crews respond to more than 8,000 calls from people in distress.

With a combined area of responsibility of 15,540,000 square kilometers (Canada's landmass, territorial waters and mid-ocean sections of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans) and the challenges of terrain and climate, search and rescue in Canada is a demanding and daunting task.

A Saskatchewan First Nation is set to build a billion-dollar hydroelectric dam to generate energy for other proposed projects of the aboriginal band. The James Smith Cree Nation hopes to build the 250-megawatt dam downstream where the North and South Saskatchewan rivers meet.

According to Chief Wally Burns investors for the \$1-billion project have already been lined up. He added that officials from Saskatchewan Environment and SaskPower, as well as mayors from neighboring areas, have all been briefed on the planned infrastructure.

Burns explained that the new dam would generate power for the SaskPower grid and for a proposed diamond mine in the area, adding to the energy supplied by two other hydroelectric dams previously built on that stretch of the river.

The Chief said the aboriginal band would want to forge a partnership with an American contractor for the hydroelectric dam's construction.

A pair of feature movies to be shot in Nunavut this year, including the directorial debut by British actor Ralph Fiennes, are on hold in part because they still need funding. Filming of Fiennes' *Snow Country* has not started due to a combination of logistical and financial reasons, casting director Deirdre Bowen told CBC News.

"It had to do with Ralph's availability, plus the final piece of financing coming through, and the weather," Bowen said.

Last year, Fiennes was in Nunavut to scout for locations and find a lead actress for *Snow Country*, a love story involving a young Inuk woman returning to the Arctic from a Winnipeg convent in the 1950s.

Bowen said Fiennes did meet with several actresses following a territory-wide casting call.

Another filmmaker, Andy Young, also visited Nunavut last spring in search of a lead actress for *Julie of the Wolves*, his movie adaptation of the 1972 children's novel by Jean Craighead George.

At the time, Young was adamant about finding a young Inuk or Inupiat woman to portray Julie, the lead character. But now, Young said he's in discussions with a non-Inuk to play the role.

Young said he still plans to shoot some of his movie's scenes in Nunavut. But with no roads joining the territory to southern Canada, he said he will likely shoot most of *Julie of the Wolves* in Alaska.

He added he was not enticed by Nunavut's limited financial incentives for filmmakers from outside the territory.

The old Scottish whaling station at Kekerten Territorial Park, near Pangnirtung, will be fixed up this summer. Parks Nunavut plans to build a steel frame on top of the original foundations of three storehouses at the site. The structure won't have walls or a roof, lest it spoil the views of visitors but it should give visitors a better idea of what the station once looked like. The interpretative signs that line a boardwalk around the site will also be redone.

This computer-generated image shows the steel frame that will be built this summer at the site of the old Scottish whaling station at Kekerten, about 50 km southwest of Pangnirtung.

Today, the site is littered with old pots used to boil blubber, rusted pulleys used to haul whales ashore, and a lot of bones. There are also the remains of qammaqs, huts built from whale bones, and wooden shacks inhabited by whalers.

Most the bones at the site belonged to Bowhead whales. Other bones at the site belong to the Scots who slaughtered the massive creatures. Inuit also lived at the site to trade goods.

The visitors also brought new diseases, which caused hundreds of deaths among Inuit in the Cumberland Sound area, whose numbers dropped from about 1,000 to 350 by 1857.

Kekerten had its heyday during the late 1850s and early 1860s, when as many as 30 whaling ships frequented the site. But as whale populations sharply declined, so did the number of visits by whalers. The site became abandoned by Inuit around 1915.

The new agreement between Ottawa and the Cree in northern Quebec is being hailed as a big step toward a Cree government and an end to long-standing feuds over the old James Bay deal.

In addition to \$1.4 billion in compensation, the agreement with the Cree of Eeyou Istchee ends litigation over the implementation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and other unrelated disputes.

It also clarifies the federal responsibilities the Cree Regional Authority will administer for the next 20 years and sets up both a process for modernizing Cree governance and a system for resolving disputes.

The agreement gives the Cree the resources to implement the 1975 James Bay deal and sets in motion the development of a new Cree government. The Quebec Cree are taking control over areas of justice and economic and social development, once federal responsibilities. A second phase of negotiations will determine the Cree's governance system.

The Crees of Eeyou Istchee are living in nine communities located on the shores of James Bay and Hudson Bay, as well as further inland.

A Vancouver-based junior mining company has acquired prospecting permits to explore for diamonds in an area in Nunavut that includes Canada's largest migratory bird sanctuary.

Indicator Minerals was granted 25 prospecting permits earlier this year, covering an area southeast of the Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary. At least three of those permits extend into the sanctuary.

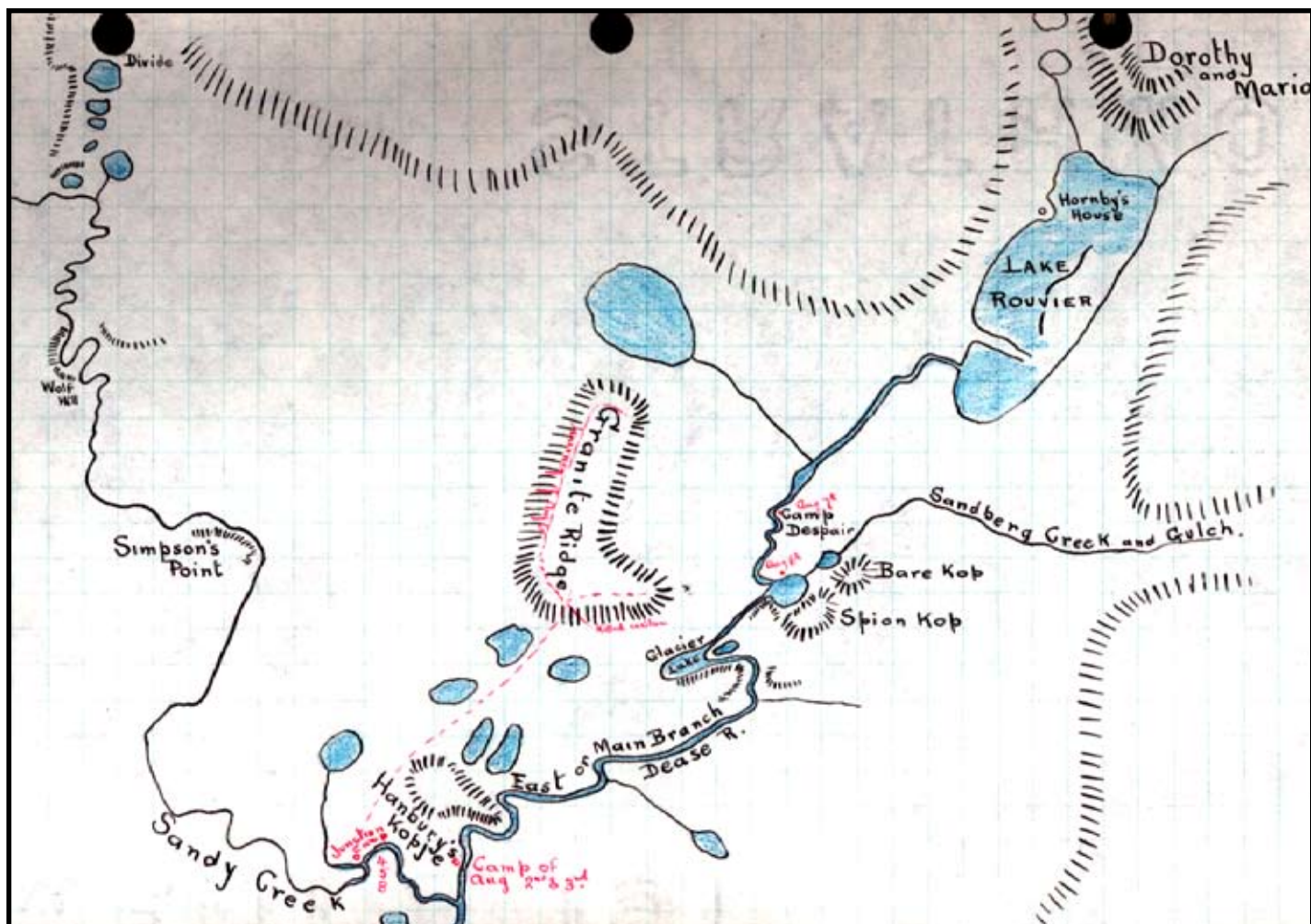
"But we don't really have any intention of going there," Indicator Minerals president Bruce Counts told CBC News. "Our focus will be much farther to the south, in the central portion of that permit area."

Established in 1961, the 24,500 sq. mile bird sanctuary has provided a haven for the largest variety of nesting geese in North America, according to Environment Canada's website.

The permits for Indicator Minerals were issued by the federal Indian and Northern Affairs Department, but a department official said that doesn't mean the company can work in the area.

Furthermore, Indicator Minerals cannot stake claims within the bird sanctuary without obtaining access permits from Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service, which manages the sanctuary.

Environment Canada officials refused to comment, except to say they have not issued any access permits for mineral exploration companies in the area.



FIELD MAPS -- As part of Robert Hildebrand's re-release of *Land Forlorn*, he uncovered some of George Douglas's original field maps. This is a scan of one such map made in the summer of 1911 during their first trip toward the Coppermine River. The main annotated part of the map is the upper Dease River with many features noted by Douglas now bearing the same names on modern maps. Note Hanbury's Kopje at the bottom. A kopje is an old term for small flat-topped hill and this one is where Sandy Creek, named after Hanbury's assistant, meets the Dease. Note also Hornby's House on Lake Rouvier. The lake was named after one of the two priests, both later killed, whom Hornby was traveling with that winter. Douglas' travelling companion on this trip, Dr. August Sandberg, got a gulch named for him. The next year the group took Hanbury's route up the Sandy and across into the Dismal Lakes and down the Kendall River into the Coppermine.

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