



WAPUSK NEWS

THE VOICE OF WAPUSK NATIONAL PARK



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Maintaining a Remote Wildlife Research Camp in Wapusk National Park

Murray Gillespie

Youth educator, Photographer and
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Wapusk Management Board Member,
Province of Manitoba Representative

Wapusk National Park (NP), managed by Parks Canada, was created in 1996. This wilderness park, part of a national system, represents the Hudson-James Lowlands natural region. Located between the town of Churchill and the Nelson River, Wapusk NP is remote and only accessible by helicopter or snow machine.

Parks Canada's mandate is to protect and present Canada's historic and natural heritage. Within Wapusk NP, scientific research plays an important part in protecting the park's ecological integrity. There are four small isolated field camps in the park that support research and monitoring activities. Researchers spend weeks and even months at these remote camps, so the facilities must be completely self-contained.

The birth of "Nester One"

Scientific research in the area goes back a long way. In 1969, long before Wapusk NP was created, a research station was established just south of Cape Churchill by a consortium of wildlife agencies including the Province of Manitoba. Its main



Murray Gillespie

Lambair Twin Otter at Nester One research station, June, 1974

purpose was to support the study of Canada geese that nested along the Hudson Bay coast. The camp consisted of a military Quonset hut with an electric fence to keep wandering polar bears out. At that time, Churchill was an important aviation hub for the north. Lambair maintained a fleet of aircraft at the Churchill airport, and provided reliable transportation for resupply of many remote camps such as this. The famous de Havilland single-engine Otter and Twin Otter bush planes were the mainstay of these supply missions. In 1973, concern about high

numbers of polar bears near the camp resulted in a decision to install radio communication between the camp and Churchill. The camp needed a call sign, and the name "Nester One" was born (Nester referring to the focus on nesting Canada geese in the area).

By the late 1970s, the availability of aircraft in Churchill was not dependable, so other means of transport were needed. In May 1978,

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Clifford Paddock preparing his bologna lunch while hauling freight in April, 2009

Lindy Lee, a Churchill resident, left the town with a D9 Caterpillar pulling two large sleighs of supplies, and headed east for Nester One. Returning to Churchill after 30 hours of struggling and shovelling his Cat out of snow banks, Lindy said he would never do that again, so now the research team needed to find another way to supply the camp. The solution was Clifford Paddock, a knowledgeable local resident with a legendary Bombardier-tracked snow machine. Clifford, then an employee of the Churchill Rocket Range, was familiar with operating heavy equipment in all kinds of weather situations and was hired to haul supplies to Nester One. Thus began a

long and amicable relationship with Clifford.

Hauling everything from aircraft fuel to heating oil to groceries, toilet paper and building supplies (including the kitchen sink) in all kinds of weather was Clifford's trademark. Most of these trips Clifford made alone, often leaving at night and returning before sunup in order to have the best snow conditions for travel. Prior to the advent of global positioning system technology, navigation was by "dead reckoning", or by trying to use the sun or the distant glare of lights from Churchill to find one's way across the snow-covered tundra. An inexperienced traveller could easily become disoriented and lost, but Clifford always found his way. The back of the Bombardier was always well stocked with spare parts, jerry cans of gas, tools, a sleeping bag and of course, bologna and rye bread to be cooked on the Coleman stove he kept in the back of the machine.

Over the decades, Nester One has supported studies by numerous students and scientists on many subjects including polar bears, arctic foxes, frogs, caribou, water quality,

snow monitoring and permafrost. The important research done at Nester One could not have been undertaken without Clifford's commitment and perseverance. As a former Province of Manitoba Conservation employee responsible for taking care of the camp, it has been a joy to work with such a dedicated and talented man.

Today, Clifford works at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, using his vast range of skills and knowledge to maintain a long list of equipment and to keep the many mechanical systems operating at the Centre. He still makes trips into Wapusk NP, hauling camp supplies and fuel drums for a number of camps.

Nester One field camp has changed considerably over the last 40 years and it continues to support a wide range of research (including its initial core focus on nesting Canada geese) and provides a secure site for university students and Parks Canada staff to monitor and study this important ecosystem. While there are many challenges to operating and supplying a camp like Nester One, the work done there is important and staying there is an opportunity of a lifetime. Although the facilities have been modernized, the nearest neighbour is still more than 20 kilometers away, and perhaps best of all, there is still no cell phone service or Internet access.



Nester One camp in the spring of 1973



Clifford arriving at Broad River compound with a load of lumber in April, 2009

Superintendent's Update

Sheldon Kowalchuk

Acting Superintendent:

Wapusk National Park and Manitoba
North National Historic Sites



Parks Canada

I am very pleased as the Acting Superintendent to provide an update on a variety of topics on behalf of Parks Canada and the Wapusk Management Board.

I would like to welcome some new members to the Wapusk Management Board who joined during this past year. Conway Arthurson and Randy Naismith Jr. were recently appointed as the representatives for Fox Lake Cree Nation, and John T. Williams is the new Government of Canada representative. York Factory First Nation also re-appointed Flora Beardy and Darcy Wastesicoot. To learn more about all Wapusk Management Board members, see the article beginning on page 13.

In February 2012, Parks Canada continued work towards its goal of licensing long-time tour operators in Wapusk National Park (NP) under the National Parks of Canada Businesses Regulations. In 2010 Frontiers North Adventures was the first tourism company to be licensed to operate in Wapusk NP and we are pleased to announce that Wat'chee Expeditions has now also received its license. We look forward to licensing additional existing businesses and supporting others to develop a variety of new visitor experiences in the park.

New visitor opportunities, as identified in the park management plan, will become a major area of focus over the upcoming two years. Following the completion of pilot projects, the time is right to move ahead. Parks Canada will seek to identify commercial operators interested in obtaining a business licence to offer canoeing/kayaking trips on the Owl River for 2013, guided dog sledding tours and guided over-snow vehicle tours during the winter of 2013-14 and guided hiking and overnight stays for the summer of 2014.

Parks Canada is also developing a proposal to ensure that a fee structure is in place for the new activities that will occur in the park. Business operators can better plan by knowing in advance the existing and proposed new fees so these can be incorporated into their business models. Public consultation is required for proposed new fees and increases to existing fees.

Parks Canada is required to review national park management plans every five years. The first management plan for Wapusk National Park was completed in 2007; a review is therefore required for 2012. Following a recent preliminary review and consultation with the Wapusk

Management Board, Parks Canada has proposed that the current plan will stand for the next five years because the direction in the plan is still current.

The Wapusk Management Board reviewed seven research and collection permit applications in March 2012. A Trapping Sub-Committee was recently re-established and will be reviewing trapping issues over the upcoming months. The sub-committee will provide recommendations to the Wapusk Management Board concerning how trapping should be managed for years to come.

The Prince of Wales Fort National Historic Site (NHS) Wall Conservation Program and the Riverbank Stabilization Study at York Factory NHS have been completed. As we approach the operational season, we look forward to welcoming visitors to Prince of Wales Fort and are making plans to transition the site from one that has been active over many years as a work site for masons, archaeologists and engineers to one that focuses on providing opportunities for visitors to enjoy a memorable experience.

Parks Canada is also pleased to welcome members of the York Factory First Nation and Fox Lake Cree Nation to York Factory NHS for the York Factory Gathering planned for early August 2012.

While we are experiencing a period of change in Parks Canada, the staff and the Wapusk Management Board look forward to continuing collaborations with our many existing and new partners and stakeholders to deliver on the mandate of Parks Canada.

Cree Names and the Landscape of Wapusk National Park

Sheldon Kowalchuk

Acting Superintendent:

Wapusk National Park and Manitoba
North National Historic Sites

The landscape of what is now Wapusk National Park (NP) has been travelled, made use of and intimately known by people for thousands of years. The Cree names for geographical features can tell us much about the people's enduring relationship with the land.

The Hudson-James Lowlands natural region contains thousands of lakes, ponds and small waterways. Most of these are nameless, or lack official names. There is a long history of Aboriginal peoples living in northern Manitoba, including the area that is now Wapusk NP. When the Hudson's Bay Company established York Factory and Prince of Wales Fort more than 250 years ago, travel likely increased between these two sites through what is now the park. As a result, some unnamed landscape features in Wapusk NP may have been given local or Cree place names, but these geographical names are not officially recognized today.

In 2002 Maria M'Lot completed her thesis, "*Kâ Isinâkwâk Askîy: Using Cree knowledge to perceive and describe the landscape of the Wapusk National Park Area*", towards a Masters of Natural Resource Management Degree at the University of Manitoba. Maria, originally from Cross Lake in northern Manitoba, now works for the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources in Winnipeg. While working on her thesis, Maria forged relationships with the Cree people of Churchill, York Factory First Nation and the Fox Lake Cree Nation and developed a map of Cree place names in the

region. Maria met and interviewed Elders and community residents to learn how the Cree language was used to describe the surrounding landscapes, landforms, and bodies of water. She found that each place name carries rich and descriptive information about the individual landscape feature such as its physical

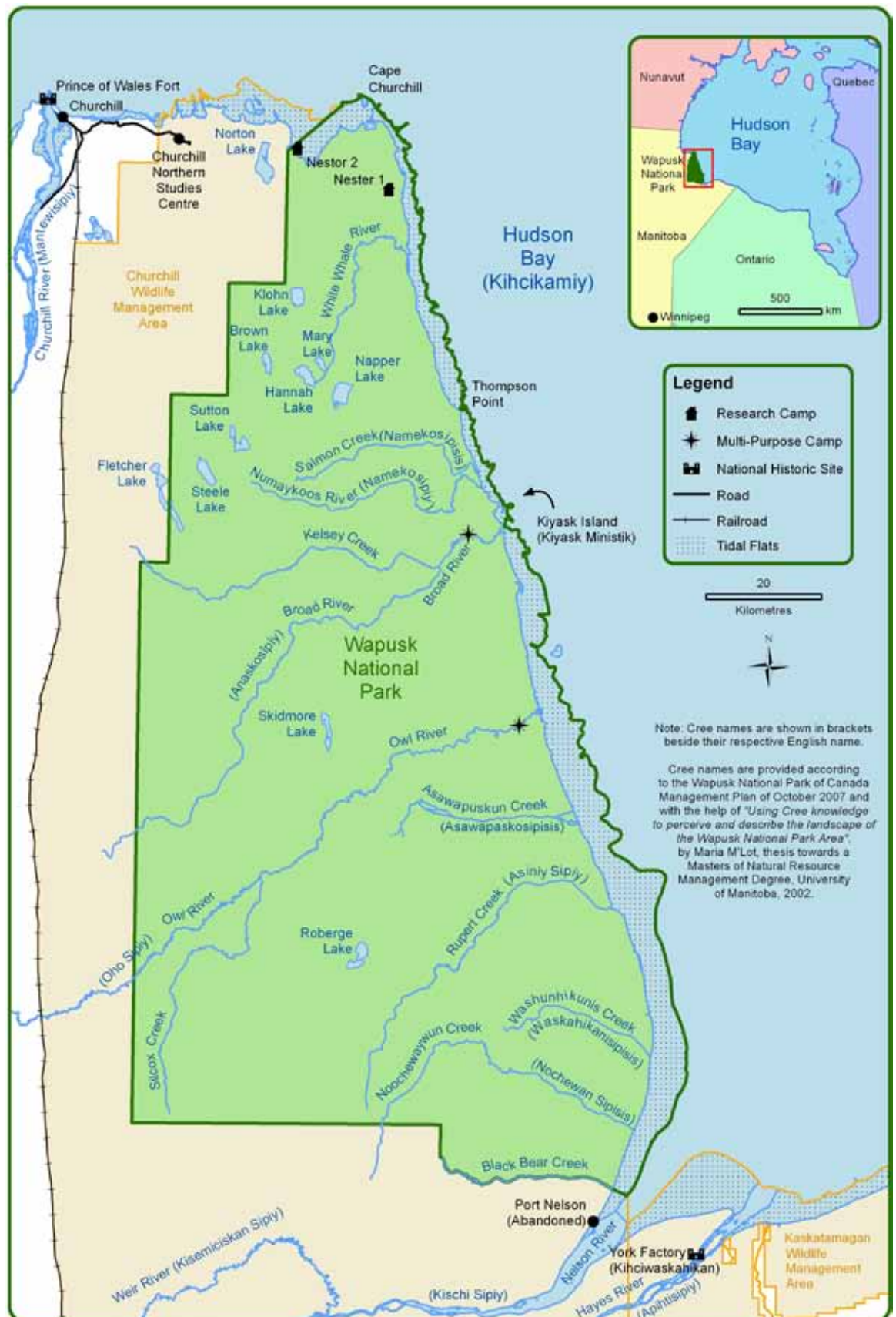
characteristics, how it was used by people, or the plants and animals that were often seen there. Some of the geographical features in Wapusk NP for which Cree names are known can be seen on the map on page 5. In the chart below are some of the meanings that have been given for these Cree names.

Cree Term	Translation	Context
Kîhcikamîy	great body of water	Used when referring to Hudson Bay.
Kîyâsk Ministik	Gull Island	Offshore island in Hudson Bay that has lots of gulls on it.
Namekosîpîsis	Salmon Creek	Refers to Salmon Creek.
Ôhô Sîpîy	Owl River	Used to see lots of owls along the river.
Âsawâpaskosîpîsis	***	Refers to Asawapuskun Creek; people used to see polar bears down this creek.
Asinîy Sîpîy	stony or rocky river	Refers to Rupert Creek, which is often called Stony River by the people.
Wâskahikanisîpîsis	a creek of houses	Refers to Waskunhikunis Creek (also known as Duck Creek); there used to be houses or cabins along the creek.
Nôchewan Sîpîsis	***	Refers to Noochewaywan Creek (also known as Sam's Creek); could refer to a good trapping area because <i>nocitakawin</i> means 'trapping around'
Kîhciwaskahikan	the great house	Used when referring to York Factory due to its sheer size.
Âpîhtisîpîy	the river that is bruised	Used when referring to Hayes River due to the blue/black colour of the water and mud.

From "Using Cree knowledge to perceive and describe the landscape of the Wapusk National Park Area", by Maria M'Lot, thesis towards a Masters of Natural Resource Management Degree, University of Manitoba, 2002.

Do you know any traditional names for places in Wapusk National Park? Parks Canada would like to hear from you!

As the number of people visiting, conducting research and working in Wapusk NP increases, it will be helpful to have names for more of the larger unnamed lakes, streams and other geographical features. Being able to identify the local geography by name will help with navigation and will provide reference points in this vast park, especially in emergency situations. Parks Canada will be working with the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) to officially name some of the larger unnamed bodies of water in Wapusk NP. To do this, we will be seeking input from the public about any Cree or locally-used names that they may be aware of for lakes, creeks, rivers and geographical places in the park area. When considering a new name, GNBC prefers descriptive names, local names and names relating to the history of an area. If you have any information on the names of geographical features that you would be willing to share, please contact the Superintendent of Wapusk National Park at (204) 675-8863 or at wapusk.np@pc.gc.ca



Wapusk *FUN*

Wapusk National Park's most famous animal is the polar bear. Did you know "Wapusk" means "white bear" in the Cree language?

The polar bear is the largest land carnivore (meat eater) in North America. It is often thought of as a marine mammal, just like whales, seals, and dolphins because it spends

most of its life on the ice-covered Arctic Ocean and swimming in its waters. It prefers to be out on the sea ice as much as possible, since this is where its favourite prey, the ringed seal, lives. When the sea ice melts in the summer, the polar bear spends a few months on land before the sea freezes up again.

Pregnant female bears stay in Wapusk National Park to dig their dens in the peat. The cubs (1, 2 or 3) are born in the winter. As they grow, the mother bear takes them on walks around the den, where they play and learn about the world. When they are big enough, the mother bear takes them out on the sea ice to teach them how to hunt for seals and survive on their own.



Parks Canada Programs in Churchill - 2012



Tour of the Parks Canada Visitor Centre in Churchill's Heritage Railway Station



Life-sized Polar Bear Den Exhibit in the Parks Canada Visitor Centre, Churchill

Parks Canada in Churchill is pleased to offer special summer and fall programming. Tours and presentations by staff, researchers and guests are a regular feature at the Parks Canada Visitor Centre in the Heritage Railway Station. Other special events, including the exciting activities listed below, will take place at Prince of Wales Fort National Historic Site and in the Town of Churchill. Call Parks Canada for details; **204-675-8863**.

Look for Parks Canada at these Special Events in Churchill - Summer 2012:

• July 1st - *Canada Day Bay Dip*

Register your teams by calling Brian Wasylkoski at the Parks Canada office; 204-675-8863.

• July 21st – *Parks Day – “A Day at the Fort”*

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Come enjoy a morning of activities, history and fun at Prince of Wales Fort National Historic Site. Free boat transportation to the fort will be provided.



Join Parks Canada for “A Day at the Fort”, July 21st, 2012. Free activities and boat transportation for this event.



Visitors at Prince of Wales Fort National Historic Site

Precious Cargo!

Mail packets in the Hudson Bay region

Lorraine Brandson

Diocese of Churchill Hudson Bay
Wapusk Management Board Member,
Town of Churchill Representative

In today's world of e-mail, cell phones and express delivery post, it's almost impossible to imagine waiting six months or a year for a message from distant loved ones or directions from one's employer. Yet, that was the reality in the Hudson Bay area region until recent history.

In the North, 'mail packet' or mail run activities were communication lifelines for people working in remote fur trade posts, police detachments and missionary outposts. This article will focus on the lifelines between the west coast of Hudson Bay, Churchill, York Factory and the Red River Valley. Of course, this included travel in lands that now constitute Wapusk National Park.

In the Hudson Bay region the words 'mail packet' bring to mind the historic activities of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC). The use of the term 'packet' seems to have originated in the 17th century and refers to a heavy leather case used to transport mail, reports and orders to and from Rupert's Land to the Governor and Council of the HBC in London, England. According to author Rupert Taylor, the packet "was the last item entrusted to the captain before he set sail from York Factory, because any omission was a serious matter with only one ship a year into the Bay." The annual supply ship arrived in August at York Factory, the head of the Northern Department, for a 2-3 week stay. The vessel usually anchored in "Five Fathom Hole" in the Hayes River, seven miles from the fort. It fired its guns, and immediately a small boat was sent to meet it and convey the



Churchill, MB 1930s. Inuk guide for Catholic missionaries' northern mail run

packet to the Chief Factor who broke its seal, and distributed the mail.

As the HBC fur trade empire expanded inland and a settlement was established to the south in the Red River Valley (1811), new communication and distribution systems were put in place. The York Boat era played a vital role in the transport of supplies and trade goods (including the packet) from York Factory on the Hayes River to Norway House, south through Lake Winnipeg to the Red River Settlement. Of course, transport of the mail packet and trade returns also moved in the opposite direction with a 'winter packet' brought by dog team basically taking the same route as the summer one, changing dogs and drivers at Norway House. In 1873 Sir William Francis Butler wrote "just as the days are at their shortest, a dog sled bearing the winter packet starts from Fort Garry; a man walks behind it; another man some distance in advance of the dogs. It holds it ways down the Red River to Lake Winnipeg; in about nine days' travel it crosses that lake to the north 'bore at Norway House; from

thence it is lessened of its packet of letters for the Bay of Hudson and the distant Churchill."

Mail packets between York Factory and Churchill

The Churchill fur trade post was one of the few Bayside posts that received an annual ship from England (except during a 50 year period from 1815-1875). But this operation also received supplies and mail via York Factory. In the late summer/early fall mail from the summer packet was sorted at York Factory for the Bayside posts, and was then transferred to smaller vessels that ventured up and down the coast.

Winter packets were carried by both HBC men and/or Aboriginal employees overland by foot or dog team between Churchill and York Factory, in lands now part of Wapusk NP and the Churchill Wildlife Management Area. A study of the HBC records will probably determine that the Aboriginal involvement was mainly with Cree speaking people, but it also included Dene (in living memory - Artie Oman) and Inuit.

The first recorded mail packet from York Factory (York Fort) to Churchill was sent by Governor Henry Kelsey on 31 January 1719. His instructions to his (two) men were to “sett out for Churchill River along with those Indians I send thither & you are to take care that you do not affront nor Quarrel with them...” The return packet left Churchill 23 February 1719 and arrived back at York Fort 7 March. On the return trip they were required to bring back 363 pounds (Troy) of Brazil Tobacco with them. The packeters were allowed to bring one dog to help haul the supplies.

George Simpson McTavish, a late 19th century HBC factor at Fort Churchill described these trips in his book *Behind the Palisades* (1964). According to Simpson, food for the dog teams consisted of frozen blubber and whale skins, wrapped into separate duck cloth “parchments” for each night. Mail sent to “friends” added 15 to 20 packages to the load. Geographic place names commonly used at that time included: Egg Hill (Knight’s Hill), Eastern Creeks (creeks associated with the Mast River), Snowshoe Muskeg (marshy area south of Norton Lake), Snowshoe Plain (area south of La Pèrouse Bay), White Whale Lake (Hannah Lake), White Partridge Creek (Wapinayo Creek), Salmon Creek (Salmon Creek), Broad River (Broad River), Five Mile Scrubs (between Broad and Owl Rivers), and Owl River (Owl Creek). Parks Canada archaeologists are still unclear as to the exact route but perhaps some recently discovered old military aerial maps combined with HBC records and traditional Aboriginal knowledge could solve this mystery.

A trip from York Factory to Churchill (1893)

Rev. Joseph Lofthouse, the Anglican minister at Fort Churchill resided in the Hudson Bay region at around the same time as George Simpson McTavish. He describes a trip between

John Oram Towns Diocese of Churchill Hudson Bay CHB 10 04620



Churchill, MB 1930s. Freight team with large contingent of dogs

Churchill and York Factory that departed Churchill on March 13, 1893.

“I left home on the morning of the 13th of March 6:30 a.m. in company with Dr Milne, the Hudson’s Bay Co’s officer in charge at York Factory, who had been staying a few days at Churchill; we had a sledge drawn by five dogs with our provisions, blanket etc. but no comfortable “Pulman car” in which we could rest, the whole distance, about 170 miles had to be covered on foot with snowshoes. I had been far from well for some time, and did not know how I should manage, but duty called strongly to YF the missionary there having left, and felt sure God would enable me to get there.

The first day being beautifully fine, tho’ cold, we walked some thirty three miles before camping for the night, this camping in the woods is the worst part of tripping in [the] north... where there is plenty of dry wood for fires it is not so bad, but between here and York Factory there are very few good woods and it is often difficult to get wood for a fire. I was quite tired out but got very little sleep, it was bitterly cold lying under a tree with only a blanket around you, however we were up and off again at 6 am and walked fully thirty five miles; by this time my feet had begun to blister and walking was very painful indeed. The only thing to do was to keep on and let will conquer pain.

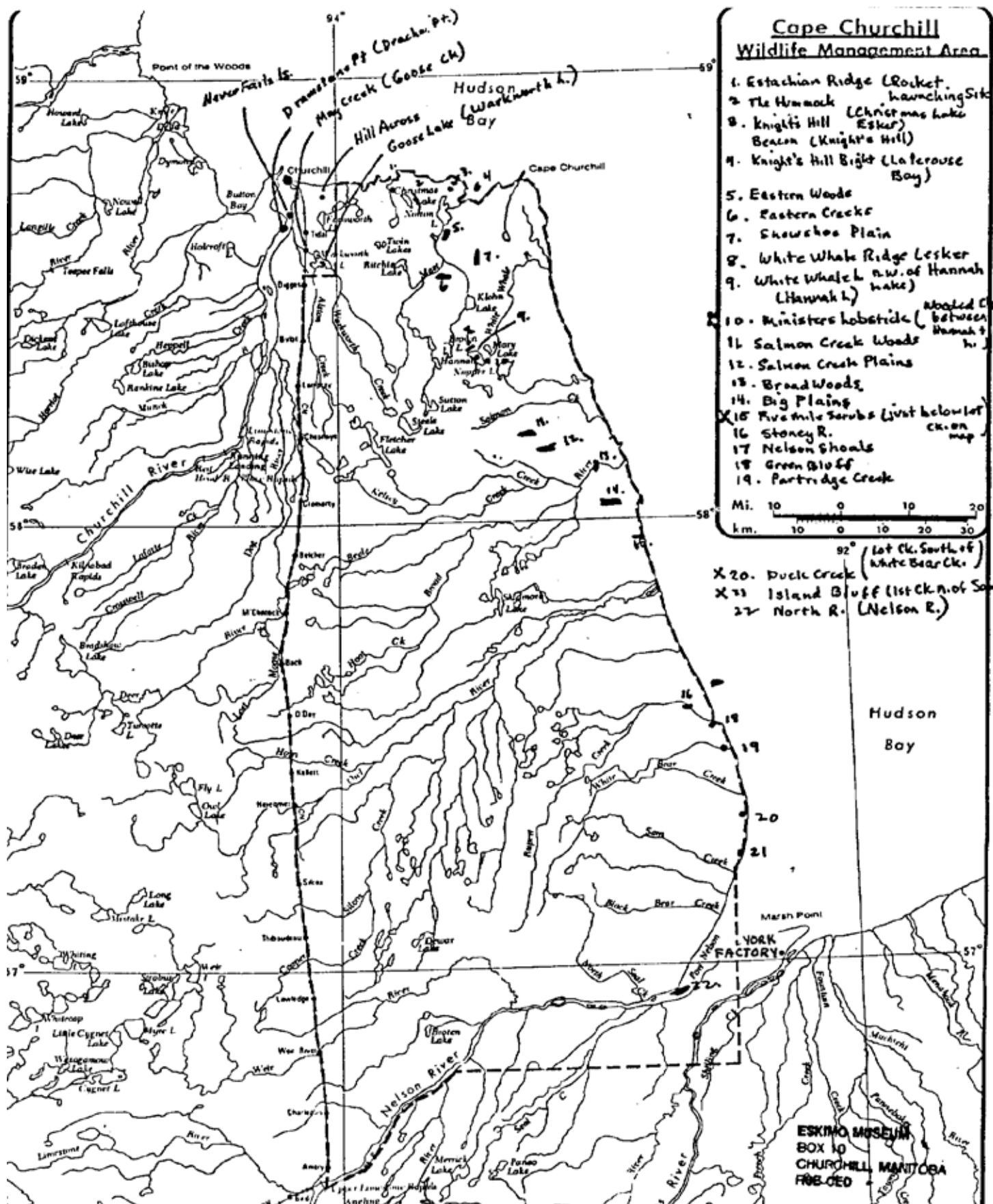
On our third day we had an exciting adventure in crossing a large plain of some twenty miles, just like a sea of ice, we saw a large polar bear and two cubs...

Our fifth day was a long and trying one, we started at 5 am and walked until 8 pm only stopping two hours for meals, when we reached York Factory. Dr Milne and I were both quite done up having walked the 170 miles, in five days, the last of which we covered fully fifty miles. To add to our discomfort and pains we were both snowblind. This is a most painful affliction caused by the intense glare of the sun on the snow. I have known several cases where total blindness has been caused by it. We could not see for several days, but gradually recovered, tho’ it always leaves a weakness in the eyes.”

Up the Coast – more recent history

One cannot refer to mail packet activities in northern Manitoba without commenting on the communication needs of people from even further North. For instance, on the west coast of Hudson Bay, missionaries and the Royal Northwest Mounted Police at Cape Fullerton (near Chesterfield Inlet) needed to undertake regular winter dog team patrols that included carrying the mail. This resulted in travel to Churchill and in the case of the police on to Port Nelson (est. 1914), and south to Split Lake.

When I first came to work at the museum in Churchill, the Curator, Brother Jacques Volant, told me how the missionaries travelled back and forth from Churchill to the North with mail, supplies, and the latest news. Imagining the dog teams tied up at the Bishop’s residence in town and their cabin at Goose Creek made me wish I had lived “in the old days.” Mail would certainly have been more precious!



Late 19th century Geographic Features known to Mail Packet Travellers based on the writings of George Simpson McTavish (HBC)
[Hand-labeled map by Richard Holt and Lorraine Brandson, 1979]

Labrador Tea

(Cree: muskekopukwa, Dene: nagodhe)

Heather MacLeod

Heritage Presenter:
Wapusk National Park
& Manitoba North
National Historic Sites

The area in and around Wapusk National Park (NP) is recognized around the world for its biological diversity. The park protects important habitats and populations of polar bears, birds and plants. There are about 370 species of plants found in Wapusk NP. In this article, we'll take a close-up look at a shrub known as Labrador Tea.

There are two species of this fragrant shrub which are widespread in the Churchill region, including within Wapusk NP. Both varieties have dull dark green leathery leaves with woolly undersides and lightly rolled edges, and they both produce neat, round clusters of white flowers. They are fairly easy to tell apart based on their size and where they grow.

The larger of the two species, *Rhododendron groelandicum*, grows within but rarely beyond the inland forested areas of Black and White Spruce. The dwarf variety, *Rhododendron tomentosum*, is a low shrub with smaller, slimmer leaves and is found hugging the sub-arctic tundra. If a walk in the tundra on a hot summer day produces a glorious fragrance, you will likely find the dwarf Labrador Tea crushed underfoot.

Many traditional uses for Labrador Tea have been reported (it's important to note that improper preparation of the plant can cause health complications). Aboriginal people and early Europeans made a hot beverage with it. Medicinal uses for the plant have also been described. Various oral preparations,



Dwarf Labrador Tea in flower

done by an experienced person, have been used to treat diarrhoea and stomach flu, chills and headache, infant teething pains and bad breath, while topical applications have been used to ease arthritis pain, reduce hair loss, eye infections, rashes, burns and itchy, chapped or sore skin. The shrub is also used to add aroma to the sweat lodge by pouring water boiled with the leaves onto the hot rocks.

An interesting practical use of Labrador Tea is to repel insects. The recipe is to crush fresh leaves, place them in a glass jar and cover them with olive, grape seed or canola oil. Place the container on a window ledge where it will get plenty of

sun and warmth. After two weeks, strain the crushed leaves out of the liquid and you have organic and pesticide-free insect repellent that leaves your skin soft and fragrant!

Sources for information on
Traditional Uses:

Johnson, Karen. *Wildflowers of Churchill*. Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, 1987.

Keane, Kahlee. "Labrador Tea". Northroots, October/November, 2009.

Marles, Robin et al. *Aboriginal Plant Use In Canada's Northwest Boreal Forest*. Natural Resources Canada, 2008.

Reflections on a Journey into Wapusk National Park

From July 8th-14th, 2009, Wapusk National Park (NP) launched the first annual “Leaders for our Planet” high school student leadership camp. This inaugural event brought students from Churchill into the park to experience what it means to be an ambassador for the environment. The program emphasised leadership skills and “on the land” science and traditional knowledge. Putting on the camp required teamwork, and one of the people who assisted greatly was **Darcy Wastesicoot**, a member of the Wapusk Management Board representing York Factory First Nation. Darcy still looks back on this week as a memorable experience in Wapusk NP:

“It was a summer of firsts for me, even though the trip wasn’t intended for me. I hope the five students found it an educational and humbling experience, from the tours and the hikes to the helicopter ride. We met personnel of all occupations and professions. Most were in the fields of environmental studies and research and eco-tourism, and of course Parks Canada staff operating in the Park.”

So, when we arrived for the five day stay, some of the topics that were covered were identifying plants and insects, Cree culture and history of the Park and safety issues. Parks Canada ensured that all participants were safe for the hiking, and other activities. The students participated in all activities and enjoyed the Youth Leadership Camp as much as I did and I would like to extend gratitude to all the people that made the visit to the park safe and comfortable. Ekosi! Thank you!”
– Darcy Wastesicoot



Parks Canada

Leadership Camp staff, assistants and students at Nester One research camp, 2009. Front Row (l to r): Amanda Spence, Samantha Grosbrink, Nicole Rabiscach-Hill. Back Row (l to r): Melissa Gibbons, Darcy Wastesicoot, Justin Saunders, Paul Preteau, Stanley Spence, Ian Martens, Brendan McEwan

Throughout the week of camp, the high school students interviewed each other on video, asking the question – **“What does being a leader for Wapusk NP mean to you?”**

Here is a look back at what they answered:

“To be a leader for this place means a lot to me. It gives me the chance to teach things to people, such as how to measure the permafrost, and how long a beluga whale can hold its breath ... I hope this stuff will actually teach the people who are here something. I hope people remember the experience of being here.”
– Justin Saunders

“What being a leader for Wapusk National Park means to me is to preserve and protect the environment long enough for future generations to enjoy and get a good view of the history and how it was like and to get into nature.”
– Paul Preteau

“To be a leader, anywhere, you to need to show, to lead, to spread the word and to make a difference. Especially here, you want to keep it the same to let others experience what we experienced.”
– Amanda Spence

“Being a leader is a very important job... Being a leader for Wapusk is especially important ... Make sure people don’t take artefacts, and show them the safe way to go, look out for animals and show them things; it’s very important. It also means that I’m doing my part to keep people involved in these parks so that Parks Canada is also preserved.”
– Samantha Grosbrink.

“To me it means to preserve and protect the animals, the surroundings, and traditional ways. To let people experience the things that we experienced throughout the week.”
– Nicole Rabiscach-Hill

Meet the Wapusk Management Board

Conway L. Arthurson

Fox Lake Cree Nation Representative

Conway Arthurson is a Fox Lake Cree Nation Citizen and is currently employed by Fox Lake Cree Nation Trust as a Claims Officer. He worked as Technical Advisor for Fox Lake Cree Nation's negotiations with Manitoba Hydro (1998-2007), and as Treaty Land Entitlement representative (1997-2011). Conway served as a Fox Lake Cree Nation Band Councillor from 2007-2010.

Since 1998, Conway has actively served in a leadership capacity on numerous community committees and boards. He was on the Gillam School Advisory Committee (1998-1999), was a Fox Lake Cree Nation Compensation Committee Member / Chairperson (1997-1998), a Cross Cultural Awareness Facilitator (1997-2005), a Fox Lake Cree Nation Housing Committee Member / Chairperson (1999-2002), a Fox Lake Cree Nation Environmental Working Group Member / Chairperson (2005-2007); and served on the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee Board of Directors for two terms (2008-2011), one as Vice-President and one as Secretary. In January 2012, Conway began his term as a member representing Fox Lake Cree Nation on the Wapusk Management Board.

Conway enjoys hunting, fishing, trapping and practicing his Treaty and Aboriginal rights. He spends much of his leisure time engaged in sports activities, which include hockey, softball, volleyball, badminton, and jogging.

Flora Beardy

York Factory First Nation Representative



Flora Beardy is a respected Elder of the York Factory First Nation. Until her recent retirement, she was a translator for York Factory First Nation Future Development Program, which was established to represent York Factory First Nation in negotiations regarding all hydro development projects.

Flora has served on the Wapusk National Park Management Board as a representative of York Factory First Nation since December 1996. Her extensive knowledge of the traditional and cultural background of the York Factory First Nation is an asset to the Management Board.

A self-described "people person", Flora worked for Parks Canada as an Historic Park Interpreter for 15 seasons. During this time she wrote the script for a video on York Factory National Historic Site. Fluent in the Cree language, she worked for four years on an oral history project with York Factory Cree Elders. The success of this project led to her being awarded both the Department of Canadian Heritage Prairie Regional and the national Treasury Board Awards of Excellence in 1996. She is co-author of *Voices from Hudson Bay: Cree Stories from York Factory*, published by McGill-Queens.

Marlene Bilenduke

Town of Churchill Representative



Marlene Bilenduke has lived in the Churchill area since birth and now resides along the Goose Creek Road in Churchill. Her previous work experience in Churchill includes Duke of Marlborough School, Health & Welfare Canada and Transport Canada (retired 1996). In addition, she served on the Town of Churchill Land and Resource Use Committee for a period of 8 years from the late 1980s to early 1990s.

Marlene is interested in exploring the outdoors and enjoys hunting, fishing and landscape photography, spending time with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She also has a keen interest in local history and collecting and preserving memorabilia associated with growing up in the area. She has been a member of the Wapusk Management Board since September 2010.

Lorraine Brandson
Town of Churchill
Representative



Lorraine Brandson is an employee of the Diocese of Churchill Hudson Bay and is responsible for the *Diocesan Photograph Archives* biannual magazine and the Eskimo Museum.

Lorraine has been a resident of Churchill since 1973 and has been actively involved in the promotion of cultural and natural heritage objectives through participation in various organizations. She has authored, co-authored, and edited five books about the North, including *Churchill on Hudson Bay: A Guide to Natural and Cultural Heritage* (2011). From 1989 to 1996 she served as Chair for the Working Group that undertook the feasibility studies and negotiations for the proposed national park at Churchill (Wapusk National Park).

In 1991, Lorraine was awarded the Prix Manitoba Award (category Heritage Professional) by Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship for Manitoba. Lorraine currently serves as a member of the Town of Churchill/ University of Winnipeg Sustainable Development Plan Committee. She has been involved with the Wapusk Management Board since 1999.

Murray Gillespie
Province of Manitoba
Representative



Murray Gillespie is a wildlife biologist, photographer, and youth educator. Until his retirement in 2007, he worked for the Province of Manitoba's Department of Conservation for 36 years. He managed Manitoba's Game Bird Programs for more than 30 years. Over that time he worked closely with federal and provincial agencies as well as the Mississippi Flyway Council on research and management programs including studies related to Canada geese in Manitoba. He was responsible for building and managing the "Nester One" research camp in Wapusk National Park, a camp that supports research on Canada geese and a broad range of other species. In recent years, he has acted as an instructor for the University of Manitoba Field course "Wildlife and Ethno-ecology of Manitoba's Coastal Region", which is delivered annually in Wapusk National Park in cooperation with Parks Canada staff. He currently visits classrooms across Western Canada to present information on wildlife ecology and the environment to high school and middle school students. Murray has been a member of the Wapusk Management Board since 2009.

Daryll Hedman
Province of Manitoba
Representative



Daryll Hedman is currently employed by Manitoba Conservation as the Regional Wildlife Manager for the Northeast Region. Since beginning his employment with Manitoba Conservation in 1983, Daryll has developed considerable knowledge about the land, resources and history of Wapusk National Park. At the present time he is engaged in several research projects in and near the park involving polar bears, the Cape Churchill coastal caribou herd and wolves that frequent the park and surrounding lands. Currently, Daryll is the co-chair of the Beverly/Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board, co-chair of the York Factory Resource Management Board, and a member of the Federal/Provincial Polar Bear Technical Committee. He has been a member of the Wapusk Management Board since May 2011.

Randy Naismith Jr.
Fox Lake Cree Nation
Representative

Randy Naismith Jr. is a member of Fox Lake Cree Nation (FLCN) and currently works as an Environmental Resources Liaison for FLCN. He is an active participant in numerous working groups including the Aquatics Working Group, Mammal Working Group and Environmental Studies Working Group. He is also a member of the Fox Lake Resource Management Board.

Randy takes part in numerous outdoor activities including hunting, fishing and trapping, and also enjoys playing hockey. He began his term as a member of the Wapusk Management Board, representing Fox Lake Cree Nation, in January 2012.

Darcy Wastesicoot
York Factory First Nation
Representative



Darcy Wastesicoot is a member of York Factory First Nation and has represented York Factory First Nation on the Wapusk Management Board since 2008. He has worked as Community Liaison for York Factory Future Development Program, and currently is employed by Manitoba Hydro, Aboriginal Relations, Mitigation Department.

Darcy enjoys outdoor activities including hunting and fishing and holds hunting guide certification through the Canadian Tourism Human Resource Council. He is active in his community teaching traditional life skills to young people at the annual “Goose Camp”, and has interests in promoting and developing resource based economic development opportunities for members of the York Factory First Nation. Through his personal interests and work with the First Nation, Darcy works to bridge the traditional Aboriginal life and the modern Canadian economy and society.

John T. Williams
Government of Canada
Representative



Wildlife conservation and management has been a lifelong commitment for John T. Williams. From 1999 to 2012 he has served as Director of several Manitoba and national not-for-profit, non-governmental conservation organizations, including the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, Fish Futures and the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation. In 2009, he received the Manitoba Wildlife Federation Outdoor Heritage Award. John, who lives in Winnipeg, is semi-retired from his career as an independent businessman. He began his term as Government of Canada representative on the Wapusk Management Board in December 2011.

The Wapusk Management Board

The Wapusk National Park Management Board was established in 1996 to consider matters relating to the planning, management and operation of the park, and to make recommendations on these matters to Canada's Environment Minister and Minister responsible for Parks Canada. The ten member board is made up of representatives of Government of Canada; Province of Manitoba; Town of Churchill; Fox Lake Cree Nation; and York Factory First Nation. The work of the Board reflects the philosophy, expressed in the Wapusk Park Establishment Agreement, that people are Keepers of the Land.



Parks Canada



See past issues of **Wapusk News** on-line at
www.parksCanada.gc.ca/wapusk

Wapusk News is produced by Parks Canada and the Wapusk Management Board.

We want to hear from you!

Parks Canada and The Wapusk Management Board would appreciate any comments about this issue of *Wapusk News*, or suggestions for future issues.

Scissors icon: Your name: _____
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Your comments: _____

Send your feedback to:

Wapusk National Park of Canada
 P.O. Box 127, Churchill, MB, R0B 0E0
 Telephone: 204-675-8863

You are also invited to bring your comments to the Parks Canada Visitor Centre in Churchill, Manitoba, or send us an e-mail at: wapusk.np@pc.gc.ca

