



Heart of the Continent Partnership

Working together to sustain and celebrate the lakes, forests and communities on the Ontario/Minnesota border

Atikokan/Quetico Meeting Summary (Aug 14-15)

Participants: Doug Franchot, Director Destination Voyageur National Park Association, Mike Ward, Superintendent Voyageurs National Park, Rich Kelly, Director of Quetico Foundation, Trevor Gibb, Superintendent Quetico Provincial Park, Erik Johnson DVNP, Pam Cain, Neebing Economic Development, Mayor Dennis Brown, Gord Knowles, Atikokan Economic Development Corporation, Chris Stromberg, Quetico Provincial Park and Friends of Quetico, Frank Jewell, St. Louis County, Ann Schwaller, Superior National Forest, Lynda Horman, Superintendent KFPP, Linda Braun, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Marlene Davidson, Atikokan Town Council, Katie Hannon, Atikokan Snowmobile Club

Presenters: Mayor Dennis Brown, Jim Johnson, Atikokan Bass Classic Committee, Trevor Gibb, Quetico Provincial Park, Wayne Docking, Souris River Canoes, John Charboneau, Atikokan Fish Hatchery

The morning started with a presentation from the International Joint Commission with round table talks of their draft plan for the Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods Water Basin. www.ijc.org/en/_LWBWQPOS After lunch we were welcomed by a talk and presentation from Mayor Brown with a brief local history and a promising future of Atikokan. Jim Johnson, our afternoon speaker gave a passionate overview about the Northwest's funnest fishing tournament The Atikokan Bass Classic. With a tour of the local canoe manufacturer Souris River Canoes and a break at Little Falls fish Hatchery our afternoon was wound up with a talk and presentation from Quetico Park Superintendent Trevor Gibb. Being new to the Park this year, Trevor was still able to stir the hearts of the audience with his "outsiders view" and a reminder of how lucky we were to have and live in The Heart of the Continent.

Our Host Michael Heaton at The Quetico College School gave a brief talk of his story and the history of Quetico Centre and the rest of the evening was free time for the group to chat hang out by the fire and watch a burning orange moon rise over Eva Lake.

The meetings the next day were energetic and the small group was able to go through the agenda efficiently and productively. Topics consisted of reviving the Science Team, the Volunteer Initiative, the Nat-Geo Project, a proposal of a business development arm as a future endeavor and a general overview of HOCP happenings and our next steps and ventures.

In the afternoon there was a visit to Dawson Trail Campgrounds, that some could attend. There was a visit to the Heritage Pavilion and a voyageur canoe paddle into the interior for an afternoon on the water with a stop on one of Pickerel Lake's beaches.