

RESPECT

A Photo Odyssey Celebrating
Canada's Boreal Forest
produced by Boreal Communications Inc.

A CHRONOLOGY OF OUR CHALLENGES

CHRONICLING ONTARIO'S NORTH – LOUISE LARIVIÈRE, CHIEF OF MISSION

This trek across Ontario North challenged us in many ways. Although weather and logistics were ever present in our thoughts, we also had to keep in mind the reason for this expedition – to return with strong images.

I had the privilege of working with two fine photographers: Jim Ross, an extremely solid photographer, and Chris Young who brilliantly juggled ground and aerial photographs. When I look back at the Ontario trek, I think of them and of pilot Phillip Wilmer, who consistently sought out the best locations and lighting conditions for Jim and Chris's photographs. I also often think of the people working at Wasaya and how they were always there to support us and our many changes of plan. RESPECT is primarily about aerial photography, but it is also about the generosity of the North.



Phillip And His Plane, Chris Hanging Off The Boat, Louise With Assistant On Helicopter, Jim In Cessna Cockpit with Lens

The following chronology is a glimpse of the team's experiences, jotted down by Louise Larivière.

WINTER TRIP (MARCH 31 – APRIL 9, 2009)

After a memorable stay at Gull Bay where we experienced ice fishing, the cameraman Tomi Grgicevic and I headed to Sioux Lookout to join Jim Ross and Phillip Wilmer. Pickle Lake was our next location. There, Jim braved the minus 40 degree temperature, hanging out of the window of our Cessna to capture the winter landscapes, and Phillip looked for every opportunity to take him up. The cameraman and I moved on to Kingfisher Lake, where I met charismatic Chief James Mamakwa. He and our cameraman drove the winter road together. For more information on the winter trek, please visit BorealCommunications.com.

SPRING TRIP (MAY 29 – JUNE 10, 2009)



Mike, Wasaya Pilot In Cockpit

May 29 [In transit Montreal-Toronto-Thunder Bay]

Tomi and I left Montreal at dawn, en route to Thunder Bay. Our photographer Chris Young was delayed; a severe storm in Toronto had forced the rescheduling of his flight. I stayed up to greet him which meant a 1am bedtime for me, foreshadowing the long and tiring days to come during the next two weeks.



Tomi Filming Dick On His Boat While Louise Watches

May 30 [In transit Thunder Bay-Sioux Lookout-Summer Beaver]

Chris stayed behind in Sioux Lookout to wait for Phillip while Tomi and I boarded a Wasaya plane to Summer Beaver. After a very rough two hour flight that ended in a failed attempt to land in Summer Beaver, we were forced to return to Sioux Lookout. I had to come up with an alternative plan.



Peggy In Church

While in Sioux Lookout waiting for good weather, we encountered people with many poignant stories to tell: Dick the grill master, Moira the chef, Peggy the librarian, Karl the tender of the Tugboat cemetery, Tom the music teacher, Jocelyne the young artist, and many others.



Planes In Sunset Taken On Dock Next To Restaurant

May 31 [Sioux Lookout]

The pilot and the photographer went on an early morning photo shoot and upon their return, Dick took Chris, Tomi and me out on his boat for some sightseeing. Dick runs the local paper and knows everybody. I was introduced to Peggy Sanders, an elegant 82 year-old woman and former librarian who spoke eloquently and passionately about her life in the north. We ended the day at Knobby, a local restaurant where Moira welcomed us with fish and the best seats in the house for watching the sunset.



Filming Karl From Beach While He And Horse Are In Water

June 1 [Sioux Lookout]

Karl Friesen has been flying the north for 25 years. He loves country music and riding his horse. Karl took us to see the "Tugboat cemetery," a collection of a dozen odd tugboats left in the forest in varying states of disrepair. He hopes this cemetery will one day be turned into an historical site. That day we also filmed a violin session with Jocelyn and then dined with Dick on his patio overlooking the lake. Phillip and Chris managed to get in a few hours of flying north of Sioux Lookout.



Helicopter Team In Cockpit

June 2 [In transit Sioux Lookout-Fort Hope]

The pilot and the photographer took advantage of a brief window of opportunity to fly to Fort Hope; the cameraman and I joined them on a Wasaya flight. We were greeted by Andy Yesno, a charismatic man with a profound knowledge of his people's traditions and history.



Mitch The Videographer Rigged Up Filming From Helicopter

Andy Yesno

June 3 [Fort Hope-Eabamatong]

A glorious day of flying over the Albany River in the MNR helicopter with Robert, an experienced pilot who was quick to understand our needs. While Chris was snapping shots from up front, the cameraman was filming through an open window at the back and the edit was done in the air. After we landed, we were taken by boat to Elders Island, a hideaway for elders, a place for them to remember the traditions of bygone days. We were also treated to a traditional drum session by a group of teens.



Pilot, Chris and Louise

June 4 [In transit Fort Hope-Summer Beaver]

The team split up that morning. The pilot flew to Pickle Lake to refuel, and I made arrangement for Chris, Tomi and myself to get to Summer Beaver on a cargo plane. Bad weather forced Phillip to remain in Pickle Lake while he waited for us to finish up in Summer Beaver.



Moses Playing Flute

June 5 [Summer Beaver]

Our host was the well know painter, Moses Beaver. We filmed an intimate moment with him as he began to paint *RIVER*, his representation of our odyssey. Everywhere we went, we made an effort to reach out to the community. We visited the local school where Chris taught the children how to take photographs. He was an instant hit.

June 6 [In transit Summer Lake-Pickle Lake]

With the pilot still stranded in Pickle Lake, we were forced to charter a plane to fly us there. We needed to meet in order to prepare for the final crossing, east to James Bay.

June 7 [In transit Pickle Lake-Summer Beaver-Hearst]

Finally... good weather. The pilot and the photographer headed north to do aerial photography around Summer Beaver and then flew down to Hearst for refueling.

June 8 [Reaching James Bay]

Chris made the most of the scenery, taking hundreds of aerial shots en route to Moosenee. My route was more circuitous (Thunder Bay to Toronto, Toronto to Timmins, Timmins to Moosenee).



Mayor Wayne Taipale

June 9 [In transit James Bay-Timmins]

I interviewed the Moosenee mayor Wayne Taipale who lamented the lack of initiatives to restore the historical sites around James Bay. The area's natural beauty and historical significance could make it a prime ecotourism destination.

June 10 [Timmins-Toronto]

Chris and Phillip flew back to the Oshawa airport (near Toronto) in the Cessna. I flew to Sudbury and from there drove to Toronto. I settled into a downtown hotel and prepared myself for the two full days of production that lay ahead.

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