



North Western Ontario Tourism Association 2005 Fish & Wildlife Symposium

Wednesday, April 27, 2005



North Western Ontario Tourism Association Annual Spring Meeting

Thursday, April 28, 2005
Emo Legion, Emo, Ontario

BORDER ISSUE

The Business Group of NWO met with Mr. Ken Boshcoff, MP for the Thunder Bay-Rainy River Riding, on January 19th. The 2004 Border Crossing Survey results were reviewed and the following list was presented and asked for by the NWO business group.

- Improved communications with guests to Canada.
- Improved communications with stakeholders.
- Sensitivity training for border personnel.
- Longer office hours for Immigrations.
- Review of bill C11. (DWI/DUI)

The group asked if we might continue the meetings similar to the meetings we were having in December of 2002 and in February 2003 that were prematurely ended.

Mr. Boshcoff will be calling a meeting with all business leaders of North Western Ontario for February 11th. A letter will be going out from his office inviting them to Fort Frances.

FORT FRANCES COMMUNITY SUMMIT

On January 13th, Jim Cummings, Fort Frances Times, coordinated what was billed as a community summit. A number of business leaders were asked to give their perspective on the state of their particular field. This included future challenges for their industry. In the afternoon, groups were formed to discuss solutions to some of the issues brought. Sandy Dickson made a wonderful presentation on Tourism. **It is a must read** (www.nwota.com, under "Articles").

Some of the challenges she presented were,

- Low Volume, Low Impact, and High Yield better than High Volume, High Impact and Low Yield. Our industry has a lot to offer and should not be given away.
- Government should be supportive - instead of developing so many roadblocks. Regulation, Regulation, Regulations.
- Infrastructure issues.
- Tourism has no legal standing. No tenure. No licensing system that means anything.
- Ministers that represent us are small (MT) or are interested in other issues such as logs (MNR). Tourism needs a Minister of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Fish and Wildlife.
- Tourism has no advocate in government.
- The MNR needs a Tourister with the same importance as a Forester, if tourism is to deal with them.
- Border issue must be resolved. Border personnel must be more respectful of our guests.

It is highly recommended that everyone in tourism become part of their community and attend this type of meeting. It is important that tourism is seen as a contributor to communities. Jim commented that this type of meeting may be used as a model for other communities. Committees will be formed to work on various issues.

FARGO, N.D. PLANS TO TAKE WATER FROM LAKE OF THE WOODS

Kelli Saunders, Lake Stewardship Program Coordinator, LOWDPOA sent us an email with an article from the Winnipeg Free Press. (www.nwota.com) Gerry Wilson Exec. Director LOWDPOA, pointed out, while the article may be less than accurate, and a truer picture may be gotten at www.rvwsp.com, Fargo is talking about it and it has been on the table.

ICE HOUSES ON LAKE OF THE WOODS

Betty Wires, Ministry of Natural Resources, Lake of the Woods Area Supervisor, Kenora District, was on CBC radio and quoted in the Rainy River Record. For more information visit "Articles" at www.nwota.com.

Ice Houses fell under the Public Lands Act until recently and now are under the Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Act. The whole issue of managing ice houses for commercial operations is under review.

NWOTA will try to have more information regarding this matter in the next Information Byway.

SMALL CRAFT REGULATION

As you know the Canada Shipping Act was updated a couple of years ago. Regulations are under review as they reflect on the new act. Info is sketchy at present but we have updated www.nwota.com with three letters from Doug Reynolds, Executive Director of NOTO, to Transport Canada. We have also attached an update from Jim Tickner the Exec Director of Manitoba Lodge Owners Association (MLOA)

The major impact will be for boats that are used by guides.

We will try to have more by our next Byway.

Dates to mark on your calendar:

Sunset Country Annual General Meeting

**Thursday, April 21st, 2005
6:30 PM at Forest Inn and Conference Centre
Sioux Lookout, Ontario**

NWOTA Annual Spring Meeting

**Thursday, April 28, 2005
9:00 AM at Emo Legion
Emo, Ontario**

NWOTA Monthly Meetings

February 9th, at 12:00 noon, Emo Inn, Emo, ON

March 3rd, at 12:00 noon, Emo Inn, Emo, ON

April 7th, at 12:00 noon, Emo Inn, Emo, ON

April 28th, at 12:00 noon, Emo Inn, Emo, ON

**NWOTA is always making updates
to our website www.nwota.com.**

**Minutes of Meetings, Calendar of
Events (meeting dates) and the
Information Byway Newsletter are
posted on our website for members
to print &/or browse through.**

**If you are unable to download
newsletters from our website and
would like to remain on the mailing
list via Canada Post, please make
sure you indicate this when
renewing your 2005 NWOTA
Membership.**

HERITAGE HUNTING AND FISHING ACT

The hunting and fishing heritage commission has new members. Our Representative on the commission is Ellie Mitchell, Island Lake Lodge, Field Ontario. Email is info@islandlakecamp.com. Stanley Leschuk of Ear Falls is also on the Board.

The Act was introduced to recognize the important role hunting and fishing play in many Ontario communities. It was introduced in 2001. (You might remember this was shortly after losing the spring bear hunt)

Ramsay has just announced at the OFAH convention that he will be adding non-consumptive user group to this commission.

NWOTA Cookbook

*We need your favourite recipes to
produce the best cookbook the area has
ever tasted!*

*Submit your recipes to the NWOTA
office. Include your name, business
name and location.*

*If you have guests or friends that have
some great recipes we want them.*

SEND THEM TO

info@nwota.com or (807) 488-5514

Northwestern Ontario Tourism Association

Email: info@nwota.com

URL: www.nwota.com

P.O. Box 458
Emo, ON P0W 1E0



Ph.: 807 488-5514
Fax: 807 488-5514

2005 MEMBERSHIP FORM

VOTING MEMBER (\$200)

Voting membership is for resorts and other businesses in direct tourism, but is available to other businesses or individuals that want full membership rights. Voting members get a free listing on the NWOTA website with hotlink to your site.

ALLIED MEMBER (\$200)

Allied membership is for businesses that supply the tourism industry, but is available to non-tourism related businesses and individuals as well. Allied members are not eligible to vote.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER (\$70)

Associate membership is for individuals, non-tourism related businesses and non-profit associations.

Please complete the following information and return it to the NWOTA office with your 2005 dues.

SUMMER OR ANNUAL ADDRESS:

Contact person(s): _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____
Address City Prov. Postal Code

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

WINTER ADDRESS if different:

Contact person(s): _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____
Address City Prov./State Postal/Zip Code

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

To assist us in keeping our records up to date, please provide the information that is requested on the back of this form.

Approximately four times a year NWOTA sends out a newsletter to all of our members called the "Information Byway".

How would you like to receive your copy of the Information Byway? (Please circle one)

The NWOTA office uses Microsoft Word to create our mailings.

MAIL (Canada Post)

EMAIL (electronically)

In which MNR District are you located?

Fort Frances

Kenora

Other (specify) _____

On which lake(s) are you located? _____

The Northwestern Ontario Tourism Association operates without funding from government. Membership fees and donations finance our work. To carry out our mandate, NWOTA needs the continued support of industry members and of those who benefit as suppliers to tourism operators. The greater our numbers, the louder our voice. We invite you to join the organization that has been working for you for more than 70 years.

2005 membership

2005 Voting membership (\$200) \$ _____

2005 Allied membership (\$200) \$ _____

2005 Associate membership (\$70) \$ _____

**Donation
To the NWOTA Research Account** \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

What specific field of interest/projects would you like NWOTA to consider using the research account for?

Further Comments _____
