



WCA Annual General Meeting – Minutes

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 @ 7:00PM – 8:30PM, Virtual Video Conference via Zoom

In attendance:

Directors: Gary Ataman (Chair); Pete Norton, Sandro Weiner, Ben Wylie (absent), Tom Connell, Luigi Salerno

Committee Chairs: Pete Norton (Secretary); Bill Ness (Outings Committee); Barb Young (Treasurer), Jeff Haymer (Webmaster); Luigi Salerno (Communications)

Absent: Emmy Hendrickx (Membership Secretary), Ben Wylie (Marketing)

1. 7:05 PM: Welcome (Gary Attaman)

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM with 23 members in attendance. Gary welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. (27 members had joined the conference by meeting end)

2. 2021 Minutes

Gary noted that the minutes were shared with members who signed up to attend the AGM early. Pete mentioned that the minutes are available for review on the WCA website.

Gary moved that the minutes be approved, Barb seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

3. Chairman's Message

Gary provided his remarks on the last year of events, which saw a significant number of virtual meetings and workshops in lieu of in-person events. He went on to explain the decision to allow in-person events in 2022, which has been made possible with the introduction of a revised participant waiver and protocols. Gary explained how this waiver functions on the website. The branding of our website, social media, paperwork, Nastawgan and all other WCA material has been updated with the new logo for brand consistency.

Gary introduced the various WCA Directors and Committee Chairs who will make presentations on their committee works.

4. Membership

Gary presented the report (attached) and reviewed the composition of WCA membership, noting the concentration of members in Ontario and the GTA, but also recognizing our consistent international relevance.

Membership numbers have remained mostly consistent despite the challenges of the pandemic.



5. Finance

Barb presented her report (attached) and reviewed the finances for 2021, explaining that the WCA did run a deficit over the last year. Major expenses included updating the website to facilitate the virtual waiver feature and the printing and mailing of WCA decals to members.

Barb reviewed the status of MyCCR, a for-profit website owned by WCA. Barb reported that there are no concerns with MyCCR finances, they were profitable in 2021 and their sources of revenue are stable.

Barb thanked Pat McGrail and Rick Sabourin for their assistance with WCA accounting.

Gary raised the point that we are obligated to vote on the decision to waive the professional audit of our 2021 financial records. Gary explained that he reviews the work that Barb does while Pat McGrail completes the taxes, which include the WCA financial report; Gary must signoff on the taxes. There is a collaboration between Barb, Pat, Rick and Gary who review each other's work.

Gary moved that the membership should waive the professional audit of our financial records, Bill Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

6. Committee Reports

a. Committee Report – Communications (Ben Wylie and Mikaela Ferguson)

Luigi presented his report (attached) and summarized the encouraging trends in member engagement with emails and growing followership on social media. There has been some very positive feedback from viewers/participants of WCA virtual events.

Luigi mentioned the Meetup site is currently not active.

Luigi reported that he has heard that members attending workshops have expressed interest in more workshops and this is an opportunity to grow our educational offerings to members.

7. Committee Reports

a. Committee Report – Outings (Bill Ness)

Bill delivered the Outings report (attached) on behalf of himself and Mary Perkins (committee members). Bill encouraged prospective organizers to plan and post their trips without delay. He summarized the pandemic protocols that trip participants must comply with and the importance of these requirements in light of the non-existence of insurance policies that cover damages resulting from COVID-19 infections. A great deal of work has gone into developing these protocols.

Bill reviewed our successful pivot to virtual presentations and workshops throughout 2021, with 17 different events organized that year. Increasingly, our new members have been finding the WCA through our virtual event program. Bill thanked the event organizers and presenters from the last year for creating the content for this extremely successful program.



8. Website

Jeff Haymer presented the report (attached) and reviewed the updates to the WCA website completed over the last year, most prominently the three waiver and protocol acknowledgement buttons that have been added for event sign up. Other highlights included the family member membership, fixing of the event group email feature, creation of the Nastawgan archives and index and new resource pages such as river level data and event participant and organizer information resources.

Looking to the future, some functionality issues have been identified for CeraIT to resolve, and the Nastawgan “search” function is an important upcoming development.

Gary thanked Jeff and Matt Eberly for their work on the website.

9. Conservation

Tom presented the report (attached) and reviewed potential conservation initiatives the committee may pursue as the conservation committee looks ahead with renewed focus.

There are numerous currently active opportunities for conservation efforts and Tom invited members to join the committee as it grows and explores opportunities to develop this aspect of the club.

Gary reported the work done by Bill Ness to propose and agree on an alternate take out on the Moira River as a highlight of the WCA’s efforts in conserving recreation routes.

10. Committee Report Acceptance

Gary moved that the committee reports be accepted, Tom seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

11. New Board Director

Gary asked if anyone would like to join the board in place of Ben Wylie. Gary nominated Chris Mayberry; Chris confirmed he would accept.

Gary asked if anyone would like to volunteer for committee positions, no volunteers came forward.

Pete thanked Ben Wylie for his efforts on the Board and as a committee chair. Barb shared that appreciation.

Isadora thanked the Board and the committees for the work that has been done over the last two years to refresh the club and stay relevant through the pandemic.



12. Adjournment

Gary moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM. A presentation from the Canadian Canoe Museum followed the meeting.



Welcome by the Chairman





WCA – 2022 AGM – AGENDA

Tuesday March 15, 2022, 7 pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Link to Join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81287973605>

Meeting ID: 812 8797 3605

| Time | Topic |
|---------|--|
| 7:00 pm | AGM |
| | Chair Welcome (Gary Ataman) |
| | Approve 2021 AGM minutes (Pete Norton) |
| | Committee reports; |
| | 1. Chair (Gary Ataman) |
| | 2. Membership (Gary Ataman) |
| | 3. Treasurer Report WCA & CCR (Barb Young) |
| | 4. Communications / Marketing (Luigi Salerno) |
| | 5. Outings and Insurance (Bill Ness) |
| | 6. Website (Jeff Haymer) |
| | 7. Conservation (Tom Connell) |
| | Election of directors (Pete Norton) |
| | Volunteers (Pete Norton) |
| | Other new business (Gary Ataman) |
| | Adjourn Meeting (Gary Ataman) |
| 7:45 pm | Canadian Canoe Museum Presentation (Jeremy Ward & Carolyn Hyslop) |



Approve AGM 2021 Minutes of Meeting – Pete Norton



WCA AG Meeting
Minutes - 20210327 fi

- Moved to approve the minutes from the 2021 AGM.





1. WCA Chairman's Message – Gary Ataman

Covid-19 has had a major effect on the operations of the club's 2020 and 2021 season. Once the Covid-19 pandemic was announced in March 2020, the WCA Board decided to cancel all club physical events in line with provincial guidelines. This policy remained in effect for the 2021 season.

The introduction of virtual Zoom WCA presentations has helped fill some of the void of lacking physical events and helped keep the club together and active. These virtual calls included trip presentations and some helpful how-to presentations. The one major advantage of Zoom meetings is how they draw members in from all over (Canada, US and Europe). We have had ~15 zoom presentations. Bill will detail these in his outing report.

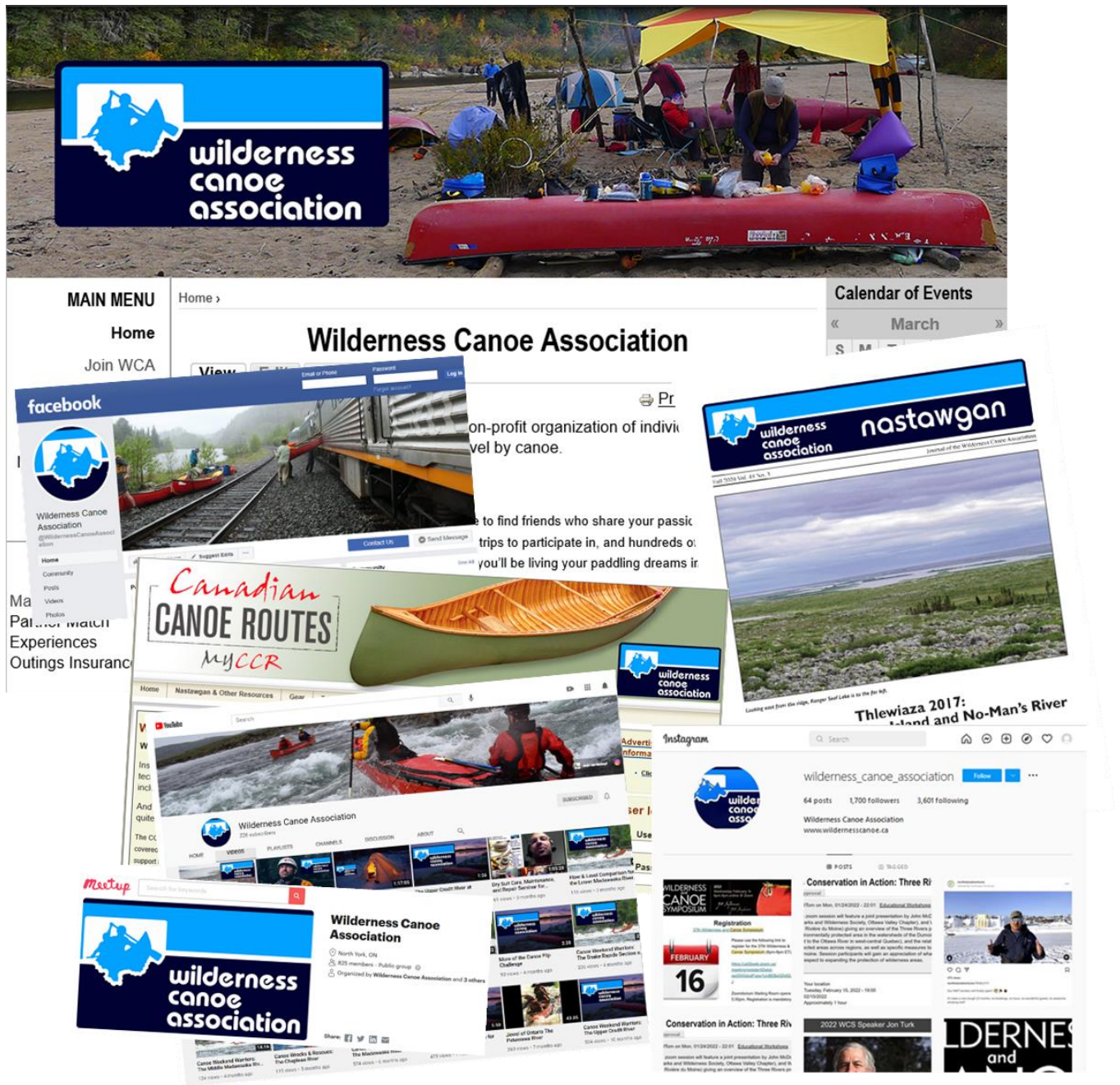
With the trendline pointing to reduced Covid-19 cases and the government loosening of outdoor gathering restriction guidelines, we have made the decision to allow 2022 in-person events. Participants must;

- Sign off on the online waiver
- Be fully vaccinated and not have any symptoms of Covid-19 illness
- Follow all WCA guidelines

Event Acknowledgement:

Read link and click on acknowledgment checkbox

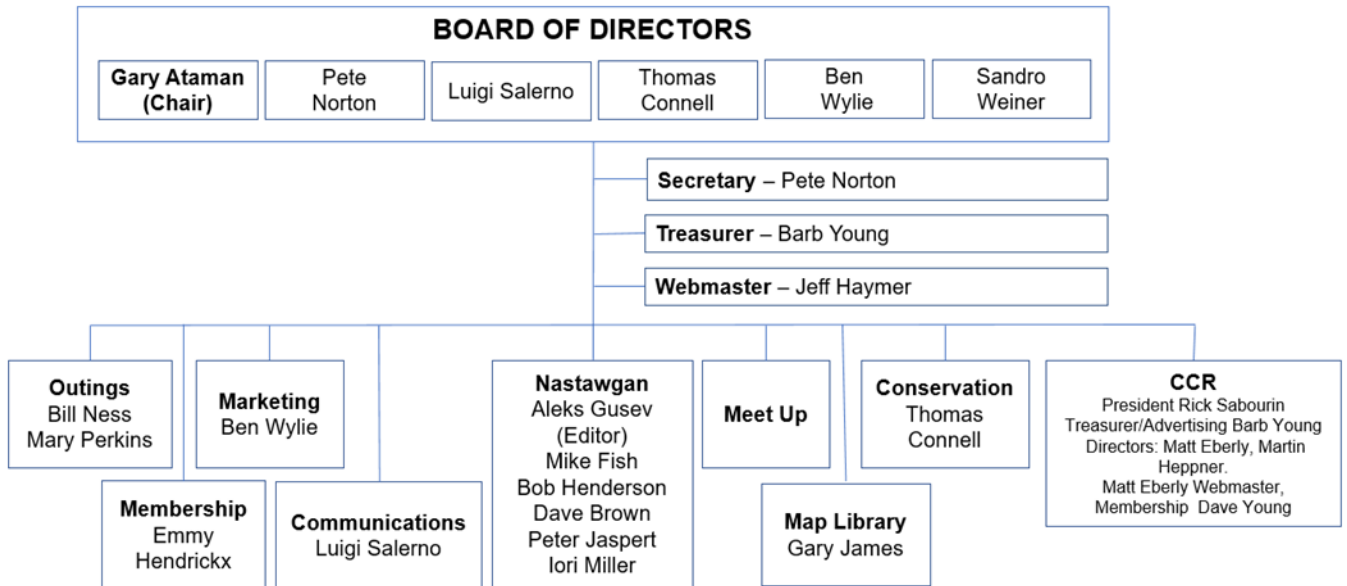
- ☐ [I have read and fully agree with the WCA Release of Liability and Waiver of Claims document](#)
- ☐ [I am fully Covid-19 vaccinated and have answered "NO" to all Covid-19 checklist questions for all in-person WCA events](#)
- ☐ [I have read and fully agree with the WCA Guidelines for WCA Outings document](#)



We have consistent branding across all our sites.



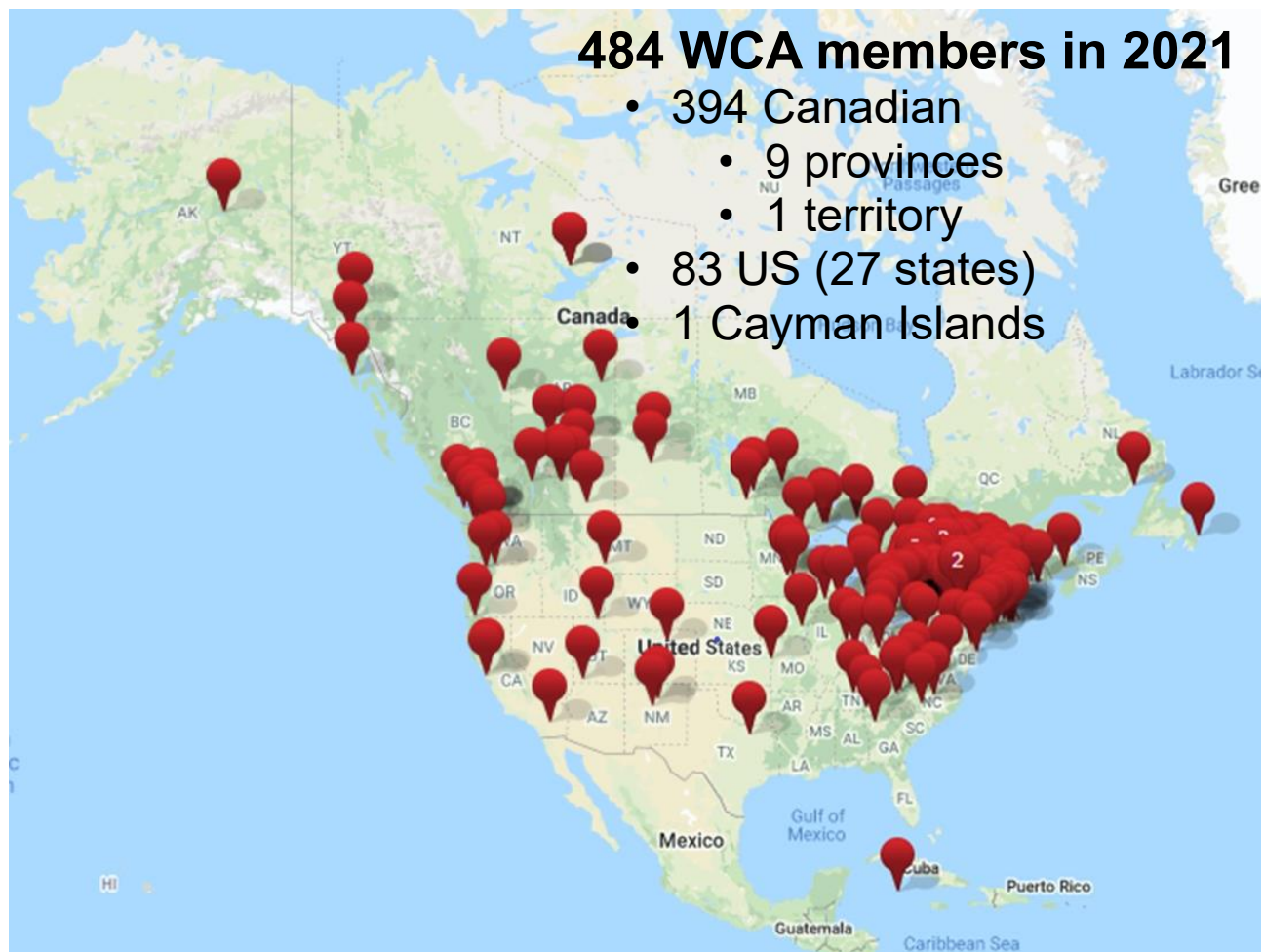
WCA Organization Chart





2. Membership

- 509 in Dec 31, 2019 Pre-Covid-19
- 475 on Dec 31, 2020. Down 6.5% from pre-Covid-19
- **484 as of Dec 31, 2021** ...Down 5% from pre-Covid-19





7 European members in 2021

- 4 Germany
- 1 Netherlands
- 1 Switzerland
- 1 United Kingdom





3. Treasurer Report WCA & CCR – Barb Young



Treasurer's Report WCA Financial Report CCR Financial Report
AGM 2022, Feb 23'22. 2021 Feb 22'22.pdf 2021 Draft Feb 16'22 .

- After review moved to wave the professional audit of our 2021 financial records.



4. Communications / Marketing - Luigi Salerno



Communications+Marketing Report.pdf





5. Outings and Insurance - Bill Ness



WCA 2021 Outings
Committee Report.pdf






6. Website - Jeff Haymer



WCA AGM Website
Report 2022.pdf



MAIN MENU

- Home
- Join WCA
- Nastawgan
- MyCCR

BENEFITS

- Partner Match
- Member Experiences
- Map Library
- Outings Insurance

CLUB ACTIVITIES

- Participant Resources
- Organizer Resources
- Outings
- Fall Gathering
- Wine & Cheese Lecture

CONNECTIONS

- Forums
- Bulletin Board
- Monthly Roundup
- WCA Facebook
- WCA YouTube
- Paddler Rights
- Conservation
- River Levels
- Privacy Policy
- Contacts
- Help

Home »

Wilderness Canoe Association

[View](#) [Edit](#) [Access control](#) [Grant](#) [Printer-friendly version](#)

The Wilderness Canoe Association is a non-profit organization of individuals interested in the outdoor pursuits and in wilderness travel by canoe.

Mission Statement:

The Wilderness Canoe Association is the best place to find friends who share your passion for the outdoors. With first-class camping content to enjoy, dozens of trips to participate in, and hundreds of experienced members to help you take tripping to the next level, you'll be living your paddling dreams in no time.

Covid-19:

The WCA **suspended** all in person outings scheduled for **2020 & 2021**, taking into account evolving public guidance on risks of COVID transmission between individuals from different households, and the unavailability of insurance coverage for the benefit of members and the organization covering liability for COVID-19 infection.


The WCA board has voted to re-start in-person events for the Spring of 2022. However, this is all subject to government guidelines and the pandemic's path. We are hoping, that by then, all outdoor events will be considered a very low risk. All in-person events will require all participants to;

- Be fully vaccinated.
- Follow club and Covid-19 guidelines.
- Sign off on an event Release of Liability and Waiver of Claims.

Contact us at info@wildernesscanoe.ca if you have any questions or advice.

Sharing the Wilderness Experience since 1973:

If you share our love for wild places and the canoe as a means of exploring them, then we invite you to join us.



Calendar of Events

« February »

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | | | | | |

User

- My account
- Log out

Upcoming Events

- 2022 WCA AGM
- Beaver River - Kimberley
- Ontario FULL
- BigHead River - Meaford ON - FULL
- Saugeen/Maitland
- The Upper Credit River - Inglewood to Glen Williams

New forum topics

- 2021 11 02 Board Meeting
- 2021 09 07 Board Meeting
- 2021 05 06 Board Meeting
- Mike Graham-Smith's Passing
- Mountain River NT trip planning

[more](#)

SEARCH WCA SITE:

Bulletin Board



7. Conservation - Tom Connell



WCA Conservation
Committee Report to

Moira River New Take Out at Latta



Moira River Access-
Changes for Take-out



Election of directors - Pete Norton

- Position available – Ben Wylie stepping down
- Call for names, vote if required for candidates
- Announce vote results

Volunteers - Pete Norton

- Positions available – eNastawgan, WCA MeetUp
- Call for names, vote if required for candidates
- Announce vote results

Other New Business - Gary Ataman

Adjourn - Gary Ataman

Presentation – Canadian Canoe Museum - Tom Connell introductions
Jeremy Ward / Carolyn Hyslop

**We are on our final portage
to the water's edge**



Join Executive Director Carolyn Hyslop & Curator Jeremy Ward as they share the journey
to create a world-class museum -
where visitors will walk in the front door and paddle out the back!