

our tracks across Canada

50 YEARS

1965

1968

1969

1970

1971

1972

1973

1974

Quetico
Provincial
Park
declared
primitive

1976

1977

1978

Provincial
parks
policy
adopted

1979

1980

1981

1982

1983

1985

private
leases in
Algonquin
Park...

1986

1987

1989

1990

1991

1992

Citizen's Guide
to Timber Management Planning
in Ontario

1993

1994

1995

1996

1997

1998

FSC

20
Years of growth
with FSC
1994-2014

1999

2000

2001

2002

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2015

2016

2018

2016

2017

2017

2018

JANET SUMNER WILDLANDS LEAGUE
CHECKING IN ON CONSERVATION



www.wildlandsleague.org/50-years/

1965

Renowned U of T Zoologist **Douglas Pimlott issues a clarion call** to preserve wilderness in Ontario triggering a “preservationist upsurge”.

1968

Algonquin Wildlands League is born. Abbott Conway issues “Algonquin Alert” urges public to report activity that violates wilderness values in park, calls for halt to commercial logging.

1969

Ontario gov tries to put a lid on brewing controversy surrounding Algonquin due to **League's mass media techniques and broad based preservation campaign.** Advisory committee is formed.

1970

League fights to end logging in Lake Superior Provincial Park. **They find that 95% of crown timber licenses in park are held by two US based logging companies.**

1971

League publishes *Why Wilderness? A Report on Mismanagement in Lake Superior Provincial Park.* Includes 8 principles for effective action that hold true to this day.

1972

Wilderness Now is published. Articulated League’s wilderness philosophy and recommendations to achieve protection. First noteworthy attempt to define wilderness preservation policy in Ontario.

1973

After almost 5 years, the **battle for Quetico wilderness is won.** Full page ads run in the Toronto Telegram with help of Pollution Probe. 77% of Algonquin remains open to logging.

1974

“The truth is we don't need to log the park; we shouldn't be logging the park, and now is the time to begin the phasing out process,” **Stephen Lewis**, Ontario NDP Leader says of Algonquin Park.

1976

Jeff Miller, one of the League’s founding members, leads a group on a 21-day trip in Algonquin Park.

1977

New regulations are put in place in Algonquin as number of visitors doubles.

1978

League’s efforts lead to **Blue Book in Ontario**, park planning and management policies manual. It commits gov to establish a slew of wilderness parks.

1979

Logging is prohibited in 50% of Lake Superior Provincial Park.

1980

Algonquin Wildlands League joins CPAWS.

1981

245 candidate provincial parks are identified to meet the Blue Book standards.

1982

Epic struggle. Facing formidable and well-financed opposition, **League fights to protect candidate parks** when Ontario gov embarks on Strategic Land Use Planning program.

1983

Battle culminates with gov announcing **creation of 5 wilderness parks** and promising to establish 149 provincial parks as soon as possible.

1985

League accepts a compromise on **private leases in Algonquin to end in 2017** however gov would renew them years later without a similar level of public consultation.

1986

We begin operating as **Wildlands League** to expand on work beyond Algonquin Park.

1987

After relentless campaigning alongside Ontario Nature and CPAWS, **Bruce Peninsula National Park is created.**

1989

Endangered Spaces campaign launches. Doug Pimlott is honoured in book, edited by Monte Hummel, called *Endangered Spaces: the future for Canada's wilderness.*

1990

League sells tree themed t-shirts and mugs, & **‘essays on ecology’** for the holiday season.

1991

Wildlands in a coalition, represented by Canadian Environmental Law Association, participates in the **Timber Class EA hearings**, which span from 1988 to 1992.

1992

End of timber hearings, would lead to new law and fundamental shift in approach to forestry. **New consensus: forest is a complex ecological system** with many values, not just a provider of wood products.

1993

Wildlands and allies fight harmful railway expansion in Algonquin Park which could lead to 50 moose fatalities each year, increased risk of toxic spills, and air and water pollution in the park.

1994

Wildlands News calls on supporters to **protect the Algoma Highlands.**

1995

Tim Gray then E.D., fights for Algoma Highlands home to last remaining old growth hardwood and white pine forests in North America. League prevails as CN Railway abandons Algonquin Rail expansion.

1996

League achieves big environmental victory after **court agrees** with them that 6 forest management plans are illegal because they did not meet sustainability requirements set out in law.

1997

Partnership for Public Lands begins. And Wildlands League also begins long lasting friendship and partnership with forest company Tembec (now known as Rayonier Advanced Materials).

1998

Wildlands League is instrumental in developing **Forest Stewardship Council Certification (FSC)** globally.

1999

Wildlands through PPL establishes **2.4 million ha of protected areas** thereby doubling the area covered by parks in northern and central Ontario.

2000

League moves into 401 Richmond W. where we still operate out of today. We also publish a discussion paper on how to **end logging in Algonquin Park while protecting jobs.**

2001

We open our Thunder Bay office.

2002

League, Ontario Nature & WWF publish Big Wild, a 12 page full-colour doc highlighting importance of boreal forest and work with First Nations.

2003

League publishes two national reports on: **alternatives to clearcutting in Boreal Forests** and **Aboriginal values** in protected areas in Canada.

2004

League disentangles **50,000 ha of parks** from mining claims and draws attention to potential mining waste being pumped into Groundhog River Provincial Park home to rare lake sturgeon.

2005

League alerts the public that there are more km of logging roads in Algonquin Park than in the city of Toronto or running between Halifax and Vancouver.

2006

New parks laws is passed enshrining ecological integrity as management priority. Santa Claus and League deliver caribou toys to Queen’s Park sounding alarm on reindeers’ cousins, boreal caribou.

2007

Long-time Wildlands supporter and wilderness enthusiast, **Glen Davis**, is honoured posthumously with the Abbott Conway Award.

2008

Wildlands fights unjust Mining Act alongside many others and supports Bob Lovelace & KI Six. Culminates in 1,000 people, teepees, sleepover at Queen’s Park, & victory at Ontario Court of Appeal.

2009

Wildlands League draws public attention to the “wild west free-for-all” mining staking frenzy in the Ring of Fire.

2010

League plays a lead role in **rerouting of transmission line** away from intact caribou habitat in Wabakimi Provincial Park. Tembec, League and First Nations begin co-creating plan for caribou and jobs.

2011

John Cutfeet returns as bilingual (OjiCree-English), Watershed Program Coordinator. League brings journalist to Albany River and is featured in Toronto Star story called *Rafting to the Ring of Fire*.

2012

League and partners release first ever caribou action plan in Canada covering **3 million ha in northeastern Ontario**. 23,000km2 off limits to mining as a result of KI’s and Wildlands’ efforts to protect lands and waters.

2013

Lightening the Footprint is implemented for Algonquin Park which adds **96,089 ha of protection to the park** bringing total protection to 35%. League launches lawsuit to protect species at risk in Ontario.

2014

Wildlands applauds the Environmental Commissioner’s call to **end logging in Algonquin Park.**

2015

Risks of methylmercury contamination highlighted in Hudson Bay Lowlands and is profiled in a documentary called *After the Last River* by Victoria Lean.

2015

Special report published on failures of self-monitoring and self-reporting at the De Beers Victor Diamond Mine in northern Ontario. **League photos reveal extensive damage** by Ring of Fire mining exploration.

2016

Making a stand for species at risk at the **Ontario Court of Appeal.**

2018

Janet Sumner, current E.D. & co-chair of National Advisory Panel, publishes *Canada’s Conservation Vision* and speaks with TVO’s Steve Paikin about new **\$1.3 billion investment for nature by federal government.**

2016

After rectifying a critical weakness in law governing Rouge National Urban Park, Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** Paddles the Rouge with League.

2017

Common no more? League **calls for end to moose calf hunt** and creation of moose refuge areas.

2017

League stands with Moose Cree First Nation and calls on Ontario to permanently protect the **North French River.**

2018

The Cochrane Plan. League hosts family friendly event in Cochrane in support of jobs and caribou. League fights to remove harmful transmission line from Pukaskwa National Park.