www.wildlandsleague.org/50-years/

1976 Jeff Miller, one of the League’s founding members, leads a group on a 21-day trip through Algonquin Park.

1977 New regulations are put into place in Ontario as a number of voices double down on the fight for wilderness.

1978 League’s efforts lead to Blue Book in Ontario, a park planning and management policies manual it commits to establish a viable network 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, Wildlands League fights to protect candidate parks as Ontario gets embroiled in Strategic Land Use Planning program.

1983 Basic cut down with greater awareness of 5 wilderness parks and promises to establish 149 provincial parks as soon as possible.

1984 League accepts a compromise on private leases in Algonquin to end in 2017, however, this would reduce 20 years later, without a similar level of public consultation.

1985 We begin operating as Wildlands League to expand on work beyond Algonquin Park.

1986 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.

1987 After relentless campaigning alongside Ontario Nature and CPAWS, Bruce Peninsula National Park is created.

1988 Wildlands Wise: The case for a national wilderness strategy.

1990 League hosts family-friendly t-shirts and mugs, essays on ecology for the holiday season.


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 million tonnes of phosphates, and air and water pollution at the park.

1994 Wildlands Stewards call on supporters to protect the Algoma Highlands.

1995 Tim Gray, Ontario’s Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, signs new laws to stop the expansion of the Algoma Highlands.

1996 Wildlands League achieves big environmental victory after court order in a multi-year case that wild forest management plans are illegal because they do not meet sustainability requirements set out in law.

1997 Partnership for Public Lands begins, and Wildlands League also begins long-standing leadership and partnership with forest company Tembec, now known as Resolute Advanced Materials.

1998 Wildlands League is instrumental in developing Forest Stewardship Council’s 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 St where we still live on hearing controversy and publish a discussion paper, “End of logging in Algonquin Park while protecting jobs.”

2001 We open our Thunder Bay office.


2003 League publishes two national reports on alternatives to clearcutting in Boreal Forests and Aboriginal peoples’ protected areas in Canada.

2004 League dismantles 50,000 ha of parks from mining claims and draws attention to potential mining impacts being pumped into Grounds Creek into Lake Superior Provincial Park home to rare lake sturgeon.

2005 League alerts the public that there are more mines of logging roads in Algonquin Park than in the city of Toronto or running between Haliburton and Vancouver.

2006 Wildlands League publishes “Why Should We Care About Wildness in Ontario?”

2008 Wildlands fights unjust Mining Act alongside many others and survives Bill 31 and 123, Saul Centre, 1,000 Km of new roads, a court case at Queen’s Park, & victory at Ontario Court of Appeal.

2009 Wildlands League draws public attention to the “wild one for all” mining taking place in the Ring of Fire.

2010 John Cutfeet retires as bilingual (Ski/Ojibwe-English), Watershed Program Director, leaves Wildlands League to Alumni in Toronto and is featured in Toronto Star story called flying to the Ring of Fire.

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2012 League and partners release first ever caribou action plan in Canada covering 3 million ha in Ontario 20,000 km² of critical habitat as a result of Kt’s and Wildlands’ efforts to protect lands and waters.

2013 Long-time Wildlands supporter and wilderness advocate, Glen Davis is honoured posthumously with the Aboriginal Award.

2014 Wildlands appeals the Environmental Commissioner’s call to end logging in Algonquin Park.

2015 Sault Ste Marie contamination highlighted in Hidden Bay Landslides and is tracked in a documentary called after the East River by Victoria Lean.

2016 After receiving a critical weakness in laws governing Rue Rouge National Urban Park, Pep Beaurevoir Justin Trudeau agrees to save Rue Rouge with League.


2018 Janet Summer, 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.

2019 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.

2020 Wildlands League joins CPAWS.

2021 League issues call to preserve wilderness in Ontario bringing a “preservation surge.”

2022 League leads a group on a 21-day trip in Algonquin Park.

2023 League publishes a report on the Mismanagement of Wilds in Lake Superior Provincial Park. Includes 8 principles for effective action that hold true to this day.

2024 “The battle we won’t fight anymore” wins $1 million in funding from David Thomson’s “The Purpose Prize” recognizing Wildlands League’s efforts to protect lands and waters.

2025 League joins CPAWS.

2026 League embarks on Strategic Land Use Planning program.

2027 League’s call to end logging in Lake Superior Provincial Park.

2028 League’s Wilderness Now is published. Articulated Wildlands’ wilderness philosophy and recommendations in advance protection. First noteworthy attempt to define wilderness preservation policy in Ontario.

2029 After almost 5 years, the battle for Quetico wilderness wins. Full page ad runs in the Telegram in support of. 77% of Algonquin remains open to logging.

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