



The Grand Portage Guide



Grand Portage: The Great Sharing Place

Superintendent Tim Cochrane

Welcome. We are pleased you are joining us at Grand Portage and in our new Heritage Center. Like all construction projects, the Heritage Center is the result of much effort, care, struggles, surprises, and satisfaction. We hope you'll enjoy the building as much as we do.

This brand new facility permits us to do a number of things. We are able to provide visitor services year-round for the first time. Future exhibits will help us share the major stories that are part of the rich history of the site. For now, we have a chance to make these stories more vivid through the art in our gallery and to offer folks a chance to linger by the fireplace in the lobby. Before long, we will welcome you back to view permanent exhibits that will provide a parade of new images, archaeological objects and keepsakes made by Ojibwe elders; all are important in helping us understand why Grand Portage was and is important to the region and country. But for now, it doesn't hurt to have heated bathrooms for the first time!

The Heritage Center is designed to hint at the traditional architectural styles of both French-Canadians and Ojibwe residents of Grand Portage. The roof line of the building mirrors the French-Canadian style of the North West Company's Great Hall, originally built by "voyageurs" or canoe men. The circular floor plan and "cupola" inside echo Ojibwe architecture reflected in lodges and meeting halls in the early twentieth century. By "marrying" these distinct architectural styles we are trying to let the building suggest who we are and something of the stories we want to tell. We are hoping the building itself will be a means to teach and raise the level of contemplation by way of its welcoming design and a stunning view through the windows. We are hoping the building will be a catalyst for transferring information from us to you, and from you to us. Please participate by asking questions about the building, the historic site, and Grand Portage generally.

The tradition of sharing information here is strongly rooted. Historically, Grand Portage was much about the transfer of information from Ojibwe to fur traders, and also in return, from trader to Indian. Ojibwe living here when traders arrived shared much about their knowledge of the country, for example, where the best canoe routes were. Ojibwe showed the trader where the portages were. The sharing of this information was crucial to the success of the traders as some portages were tucked away from sight in hidden bays of obscure lakes. And like engineers concerned with efficiency, Ojibwe laid out the Grand Portage along a landscape that required the least amount of effort to carry goods from one water body to another. As a result, hills could be traversed gently to ease the effort of carrying 80 pounds of packaged goods. Ojibwe taught canoe men and traders how to survive in this wilderness country while traveling great distances using Native American technologies such as snowshoes and toboggans.

The traders, too, brought new information and new technologies to Ojibwe. The traders introduced salt into

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Grand Portage National Monument

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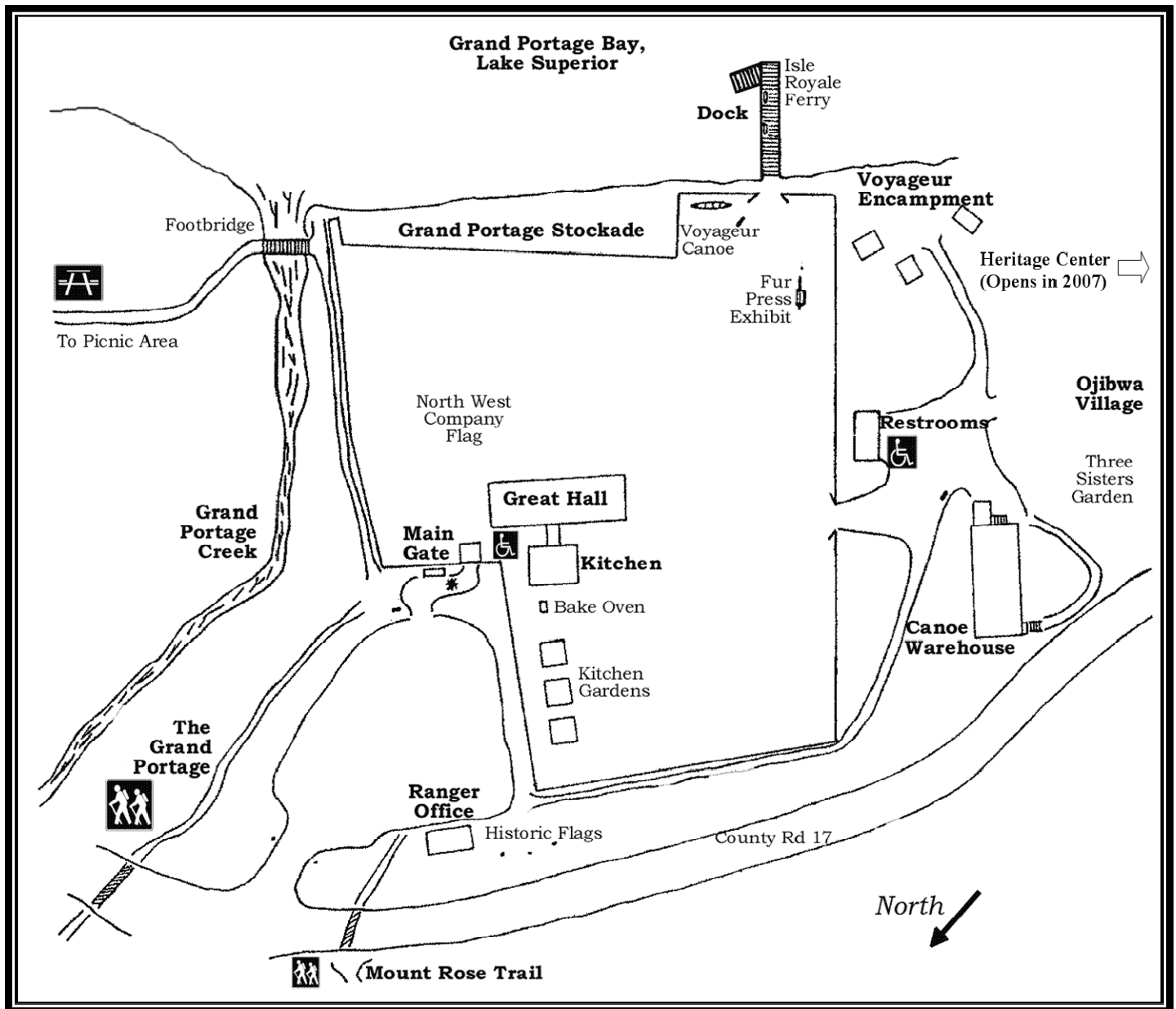
Boozhoo *Bonjour* Welcome

Welcome to Grand Portage. We are pleased you are here and exploring "Portage" with us. There is much to see and do. Please join our interpreters and participate in the past. Please ask us about the fur trade and its ingenious technology, or its novel customs. Or come and learn about the intrinsic links between the fur traders and the nearby residents, the Grand Portage Ojibwe.

The Staff of Grand Portage National Monument

A GUIDE TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR WAY AT GRAND PORTAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

More than 200 years ago, the North West Company concentrated its business activities in and around the stockade. Four of the most important structures have been reconstructed on their original foundations: The Great Hall, kitchen, warehouse, and gatehouse. National Park Service employees and Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs) staff these buildings. You will find rangers and VIPs wearing dress appropriate to the period, or in the NPS uniform.



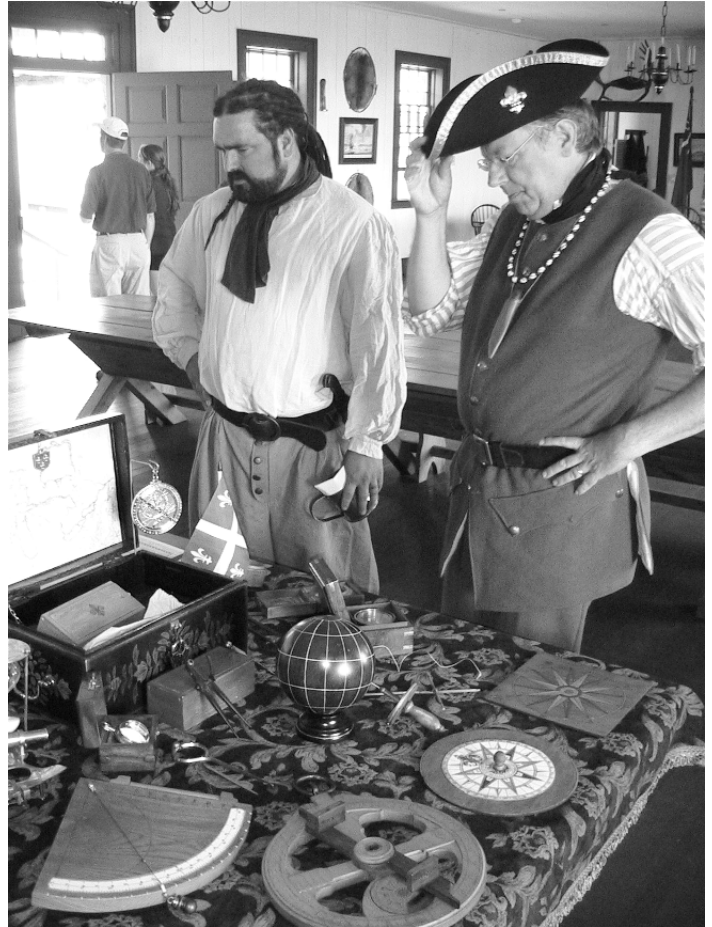
ACTIVITIES & RANGER-CONDUCTED PROGRAMS

LIVING HISTORY DEMONSTRATIONS

Come to the Voyageur Encampment and Ojibwe Village, where you will see demonstrations of Ojibwe and voyageur life in the late 1700s. While there, see our American Indian Three Sisters garden, and witness the firing of a North West Company trade gun.

Visit the Great Hall, historically furnished circa 1790s. Also in the Great Hall, there is a Try-It-On historic clothing exhibit where *you* can fit into history!

Follow your nose to the kitchen, where you can see period cooking and baking demonstrations from mid-June through early September. Don't miss our historic heirloom garden and outdoor bake oven located just behind the kitchen.



RANGER-CONDUCTED INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

History comes alive when you take part in an interpretive program here at Grand Portage. Park rangers will transport you back in time, where you can become part of the story that unfolds before you!

These programs range in length from 20 minutes to 60 minutes. Be sure and check the “Program” sign next to the main gate for program topics, locations, and starting times. *Please note: Our program schedule is subject to change without notice due to staffing or weather conditions.*

VIDEO PRESENTATIONS

We offer video programs, on request. A staff member will be happy to start a program for you. There are several to choose from:

- The Northwest Passage – Running time is 10 minutes
- On the Road With Charles Kuralt – Running time is 5 minutes.
- The Voyageur – Running time is 20 minutes.
- The Birch Bark Canoe Builder – Running time is 30 minutes.

SELF-GUIDED ACTIVITIES

HIKING TRAILS

The Grand Portage: The 8½-mile *Grand Portage* is open for hiking. Two campsites are available for primitive camping at Fort Charlotte. A free permit is required, and can be obtained at the ranger station or at one of three registration boxes located along the Grand Portage.

Mt. Rose Trail: The Mt. Rose trail, located across from the historic depot, is a paved ½-mile-long nature trail which climbs 300 feet for a spectacular vista of the depot and Lake Superior. Approximate hiking time is 1 hour. A self-guiding trail brochure is available at the trail head.

BROCHURES AVAILABLE

We offer several brochures for your use and enjoyment:

- NPS Grand Portage Map and Guide
- Ojibwe Lifeways
- Historic Garden
- Bird Checklist
- Mt. Rose Trail

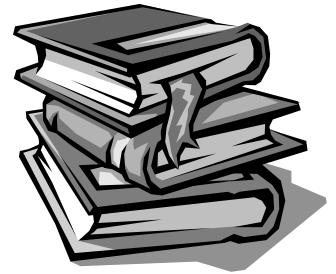
JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

Become a Grand Portage Junior Ranger! This program, for kids ages 7 to 13, is free. Activity guides can be picked up at the Great Hall. You should allow at least 1½ hours to complete this activity. When finished, kids are awarded a Junior Ranger badge and a Voyageur's contract. This is a family activity and we encourage parents to get involved and enjoy the program with their kids! Children under the age of 7, or those with special needs, will require the assistance of an adult.

BOOKS WORTH BROWSING

To help alleviate the isolation of winter posts, the North West Company provided reading materials. Daniel Harmon, a North West Company clerk wrote,

“Most of our leisure moments (and which is nearly nine tenths of our time) will be spent reading, and conversing on what we have read.”



The following titles may be found in *your* local library:

“The Nor’Westers: The Fight for the Fur Trade” by Marjorie Wilkins Campbell, 2002. Fitzhenry & Whiteside, Calgary, Alberta, Canada & Allston, MA, 134 pg.

“Indians In Minnesota” by Kathy Davis & Elizabeth Ebbott, 2006. University of Minnesota Press, 386 pg.

“Early Fur Trade on the Northern Plains: Canadian Traders Among Mandan & Hidatsa Indians, 1738-1818” by W. Raymond Wood & Thomas D. Thiessen, 1985. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK. 353 pg.

“Making the Voyageur World: Travelers and Traders in the North American Fur Trade” by Carolyn Podruchny, 2006. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, NE. 414 pg.

“North of Athabaska: Slave Lake and Mackenzie River Documents of the North West Company, 1800-1821” by Lloyd Keith (editor), 2001. McGill-Queen’s University Press, Montreal & Kingston, Canada, 504 pg.

“Canoeing a Continent: On the Trail of Alexander Mackenzie” by Max Finkelstein, 2005. Natural Heritage/Natural History, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 298 pg.

These books are also available at the Eastern National bookstore in the Grand Portage National Monument Heritage Center.

The Grand Rendezvous

Ranger Karl Koster

The hustle and bustle of summer activity peaked with the North West Company Rendezvous held here at Grand Portage. This was the time when furs from wintering posts, which reached into Canada, were delivered down the historic *Grand Portage*. The annual Rendezvous is still celebrated here during the second full weekend of August. The event is held in conjunction with the Rendezvous Days and Pow Wow, sponsored by the Grand Portage Band of

Lake Superior Chippewa. The annual gathering is our biggest and grandest celebration of the year, a time when Grand Portage comes alive and reflects on its rich heritage. Re-enactors from across the country and Canada gather to camp and challenge each other. This is one event you do not want to miss! Music, dancing, craft demonstrations, and hands-on workshops ensure an exciting weekend at the National Monument.



FRIENDS OF GRAND PORTAGE



As a member of our non-profit association, you can support the National Monument. We invite you to join us for the opportunity to be personally involved in Grand Portage's vibrant historic & contemporary communities.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Keep me posted on Friends of Grand Portage news by e-mail at: _____

I love Grand Portage! Please contact me, because I'd like to assist the board to plan events & projects!

Enclosed is my check (US funds) payable to *Friends of Grand Portage*. My dues or contributions are tax-deductible, because we are a 501(c) 3 organization. Enroll me for the current year (annual dues) as:

- | | | | |
|--|----------|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Investor/Member of Beaver Club | \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member/Winterer | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron /Wintering Partner | \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Member/Retired Voyageur | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member/Clerk | \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Member/Green-Horn | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Member/Interpreter | \$35 | | |

Please keep my personal information private.

•Visit us Online - <http://grandportage.org>

Mail to: Friends of Grand Portage, c/o MHS, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

A Sense of Place and Time at Grand Portage

Chief of Interpretation Pam Neil - Ranger Mike Plummer-Steen

Over a 200 year span, many fur traders kept thorough daily journals, but few documented the visual impact of the business through drawings or diagrams. It was only during the last 60 years that individuals such as John Bigsby (1792-1881), Peter Rindisbacher (1806-1834), Paul Kane (1810-1871), Eastman Johnson (1824-1906), Frances Hopkins (1839-1919) and a few others gave us any eyewitness accounts of the fur trade and aboriginal lifestyles through their sketches and artworks. Contemporary artists have bridged the gap between fur trade era documenters and modern day digital photographers and have been interpreting fur trade culture and the “Canoe Country” through new eyes. The opening of the Grand Portage National Monument Heritage Center offers opportunities to view different perspectives of Grand Portage through the artworks of Eastman Johnson, Howard Sivertson, Carl Gawboy and Travis Novitsky. The exhibit, on display in the gallery of our heritage center, along with this article, is a tribute to those working today and those who have gone before.

Eastman Johnson (1824-1906)

One of the most important collections depicting Ojibwe Indian life at Grand Portage is owned by the St. Louis County Historical Society. These works were created by noted genre artist Eastman Johnson, famous for his images of American country life during the 1860s and 1870s. Johnson's later portraits often use techniques common to 17th century Dutch masters; in his lifetime, he became known as the “*American Rembrandt*.” In 1856, back from Europe after completing several years of art studies in Germany, Holland and France, Johnson visited his sister Sarah and her husband in the newly founded community of Superior, Wisconsin.



Ojibwe Wigwam at Grand Portage, St. Louis Co. Hist. So. E.J.

Johnson built his own cabin for summer use on Pokegama Bay across the St. Louis River from present-day Duluth, and engaged *Métis* (mixed-blood) Stephen Bonga, a son of the well-known North West Company (NWC) voyageur Pierre Bonga, as his guide and interpreter. Together, the two traveled Lake Superior's shore including the Apostle Islands and Isle Royale. Bonga said Johnson was a “most likeable man to work for,” and said his employer became an expert at handling a birchbark canoe.



Ojibwe Women, St. Louis Co. Hist. Society E.J.

A Jesuit Mission of Immaculate Conception entry that surely places Eastman Johnson at Grand Portage. The Jesuits visited Grand Portage regularly and during one trip the following entry was made on August 19, 1857: “Mr. McCullough arrived since the 15th with a painter, who has trouble finding subjects.”

Mr. McCullough was the principal trader at Grand Portage at

this time and got his supplies from the Duluth-Superior area. McCullough was so well liked by residents, they wanted to make him their Indian Agent, but his application was rejected by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. On August 22nd the diary records, “... the painter finishes a few portraits, and he pays his subjects.”

Johnson traveled to the Superior region twice; it was during his second visit that

most of the superb pencil, charcoal, and chalk portraits of the Grand Portage Ojibwe people were made. While in Grand Portage, Johnson finished several portraits, paid his subjects and prepared several landscapes of the area, a genre for which he is less well known. These landscapes, however, provide an important glimpse of the Grand Portage Bay area only three years since the Reservation was formed after the Treaty of 1854.



Camp Scene at Grand Portage, St. Louis Co. Historical Society

Eastman Johnson

Howard Sivertson (1930-present)

Born during the Great Depression, son of a commercial fisherman, Howard Sivertson grew up in “Voyageur Country,” on Lake Superior's Isle Royale and the Arrowhead Region of Minnesota where he says, “It was impossible not to learn at least something of the voyageur legends that are at the root of our history. Their adventures were the source of many of the imaginary games we played as kids.”

“Growing up following in the voyageur moccasin tracks on canoe trips through the Boundary Waters, the legends became more real and my curiosity grew while paddling or resting at campsites that voyageurs probably used, while watching the glow from the fire. I tried to imagine what they must have looked like as they paddled and portaged or set up their camp right where I was sitting.” While he



Sabbath Sunrise

Howard Sivertson

spent his childhood in the family business, Howard found he had a different calling, and his interest in art led him to a degree from the Minneapolis School of Art in 1950, followed by active duty in the U.S. Navy at Pearl Harbor and 25 years as a commercial artist. Ultimately though, his life-long interest in the rich cultural history of his home place enticed him to bring those stories to life through his art.

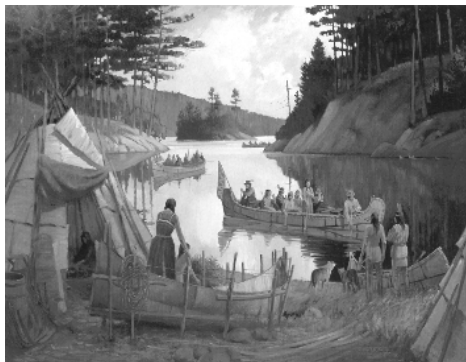
“It became my desire to document the activities of the fur traders of this area. I thought that by putting my experiences with boats, canoes and the landscape they traveled through with lots of research, I could come close to putting the puzzle back together. Research provided me with information about their

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dress, customs, canoes, routes, campsites and unique personalities.”

Howard’s research involved reading journals kept by NWC employees, actual participants of the culture of the fur-trade, and later fur-trade scholars and historians. “My friend, Dr. Timothy Cochrane, superintendent of Grand Portage National Monument, and I share the same interest and have



The Canoe Builders of Saganaga

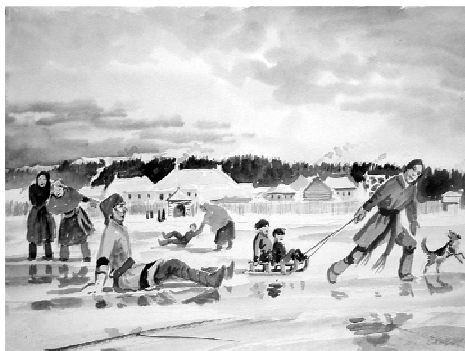
Howard Sivertson

spent many hours at my cabin on Isle Royale, my home in Grand Marais and in boats on Lake Superior trading information that he has gleaned through his diligent research into obscure records in Canada, France and the U. S. in exchange for cookies, smoked fish and beer. Together, we cruised the Canadian shore with copies of historic journals and diaries and identified what we believe to be the routes and campsites of brigades of canoes through time.” “Trying to follow traces of the voyageurs, I’ve been lost in fog on Lake Superior, confused by the myriad islands on Lake Saganaga, gone through the ice on rivers and lakes, been stranded on islands during storms and almost capsized once. I have encountered magnificent wildlife of the boreal woods, even been able to watch ravens and wolves play together.” Today Howard has a studio in Grand Marais and also in Ontario, Canada where he continues to write and paint almost every day.

Carl Gawboy (1942-present)

Carl Gawboy, a member of the Bois Fort (Nett Lake) Band of Minnesota Ojibwe, was born in Cloquet, Minnesota. His father, Robert Gawboy, was Ojibwe and his mother, Helmi Jarvinen, was Finnish. “They married because they both liked to read,” he says. Raised in Ely, he has lived in or around Duluth for the past 20 years. Carl graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD) in 1965 and received a master’s degree from the University of Montana in 1972. Besides teaching in high schools, Carl taught for six years back at UMD and another 12 years at the College of St. Scholastica, teaching American Indian Studies and watercolor painting.

Having been called the “Ojibwe Norman Rockwell”, much of Carl’s work primarily defines Ojibwe culture between 1850 and 1950, a century that best synthesizes Ojibwe activities and technology in transition because of Euro-



Skating on Kaminstiquia

Carl Gawboy

pean influence. Among Carl’s favorite themes is the spirit of everyday life depicted in rituals, harvesting, ricing, hunting, canoeing and story telling. Carl relates, “I like to think my paintings are ‘of place,’ there’s a lot of gloomy sky and jack pines in

my paintings. The people I paint belong in those landscapes. “I later studied the fur trade and explored my connection with that world in my paintings.”



Fur Post Snow Removal

Carl Gawboy

Two of the works Carl has created this year depict his grandfather’s land on Rainy Lake, the other end of the “Voyagers Highway”. This land, now surrounded by Voyageurs National Park, is one of the last Indian “outside allotments” in any National Park. He recently visited the land and found the site of his grandfather’s cabin. He has painted a series of works using the ancestral lands as a setting. “Voyageurs Passing Table Rock” (featured in the heritage center gallery) looks towards the west; his grandfather’s land is in the distant lands to the left.

Carl’s work was recently featured in the Tweed Museum exhibition of Eastman Johnson Paintings. This past year, he finished



Jim & Bessie Plan Their Day

Carl Gawboy

commissioned works for Voyageurs National Park featuring fur traders and Indian trappers. Carl was also commissioned by Grand Portage National Monument to compose the large mural, “Rendezvous Gitchie Onigaming,” above the entryway to the exhibit gallery in the new heritage center. A painter for over 50

years, Carl is currently retired and devotes a good deal of his time to painting. His works vary from watercolor, acrylics, murals, book illustrations and lectures.

Travis Novitsky (1975-present)

Travis Novitsky, a member of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, was born in Grand Marais and resides in the community of Grand Portage where he has lived his entire life. Mountain biking, hiking, canoeing, snowshoeing and almost everything to do with the outdoors are Travis’ favorite activities. Travis says, “Of course my favorite activity is just taking my camera and wandering, always on the lookout for new pictures.” Travis is also fascinated by the rich history of the Grand Portage area.

Travis says, “I find the fur trade quite interesting. The thought that intrigues me the most is that, thanks to the fur trade, Grand Portage was once one of the busiest places in the country. You would never expect that by looking at the community today! Of course, the whole country has changed incredibly since that time period, and there are a lot more people everywhere. But, to think that this place was once a major hub of activity and saw so many people (and trade goods) come and go, and that at one point in time Grand Portage was a well-known name, even ‘over the pond’ in Europe, well.....that



Friend of the Red Fox

Travis Novitsky

(Continued on page 12)

Where In Time Is the North



NWC depot expanded,
Ft. Charlotte likely built

1785



La Verendrye guided
to Grand Portage
from Nipigon.
Voyageurs mutiny at
length of portage

Beginning of
American
Revolution

1775



NWC part
McKenzie
Pacific O
before Lev

Ojibwe people
immigrate to North
Shore from Sault Ste.
Marie and become
established at Grand
Portage

1200-1500

1731



Treaty of Paris cedes
Canada to the British

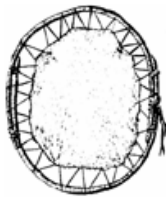
1763

Surrender of British at
Yorktown ends
American Revolution

1781

1670

Hudson's Bay
Company founded



1768

British independent trader
John Askin builds a small
post at Grand Portage

1783

Peace of Paris Treaty
places Grand Portage
on U.S. side of new
border

1789

George Washi
becomes 1st P
dent of the U

AD—1000

Archaeological
evidence of earliest
Native American
activities at Grand
Portage

1754-1760

French & Indian War



1779

Wartime restrictions on fur
trade cause independent
traders at Grand Portage to
combine efforts and re-
sources to form the North
West Company!

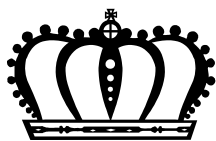


1789

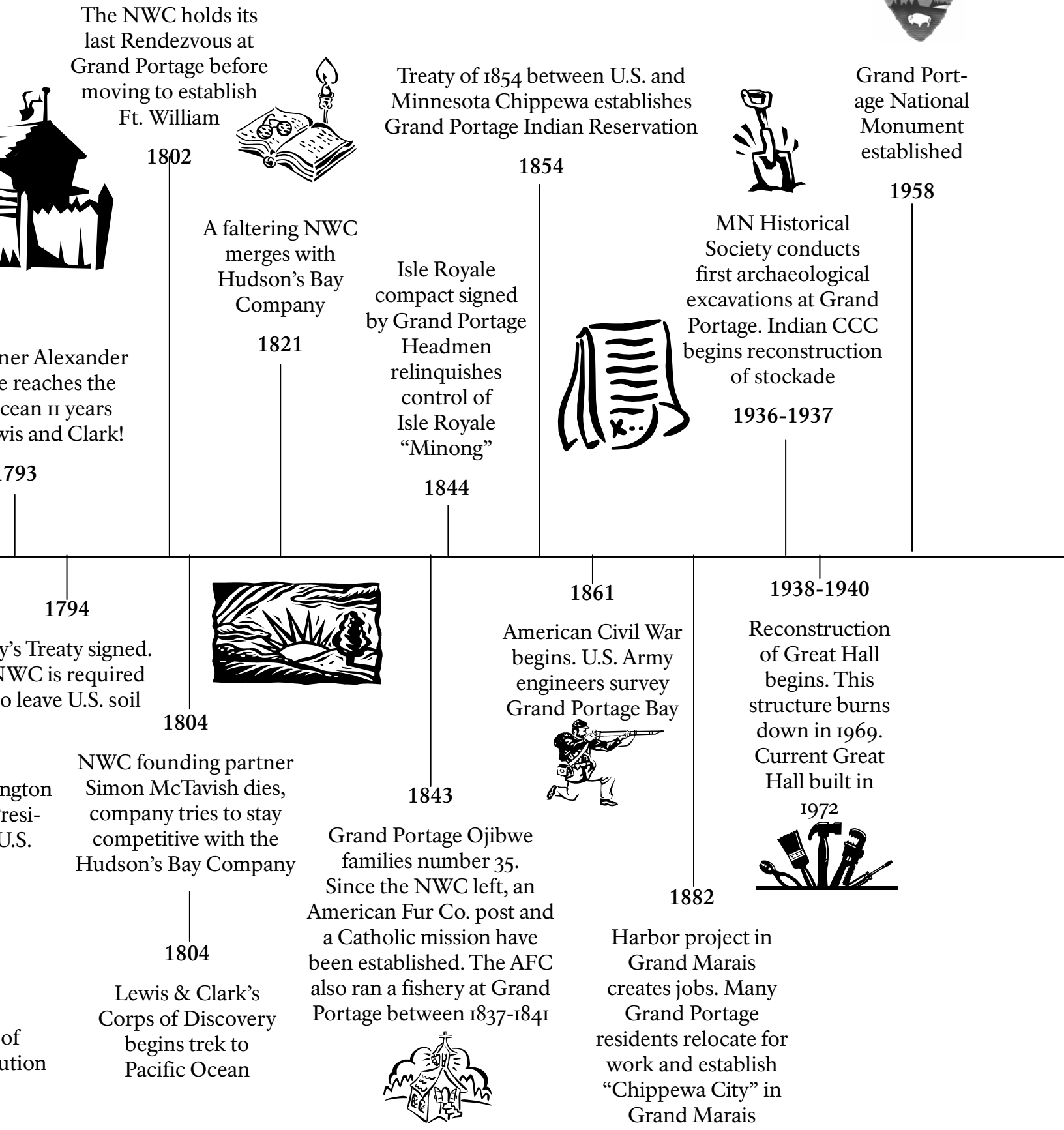
Beginning
French Revol

1760

George III becomes
King of England



North West Company?



Through an Artist's Eye: A Glimpse of Fort Charlotte

Chief Resources Management Dave Cooper

Located at the west end of the Grand Portage, Fort Charlotte was an advance supply depot and jumping off point for North West Company canoe brigades paddling up the Pigeon River to the Canadian upper country. Named for Queen Charlotte (the wife of King George III), its palisaded walls protected traders' goods, supplies, and living quarters from the 1790s to about 1802.

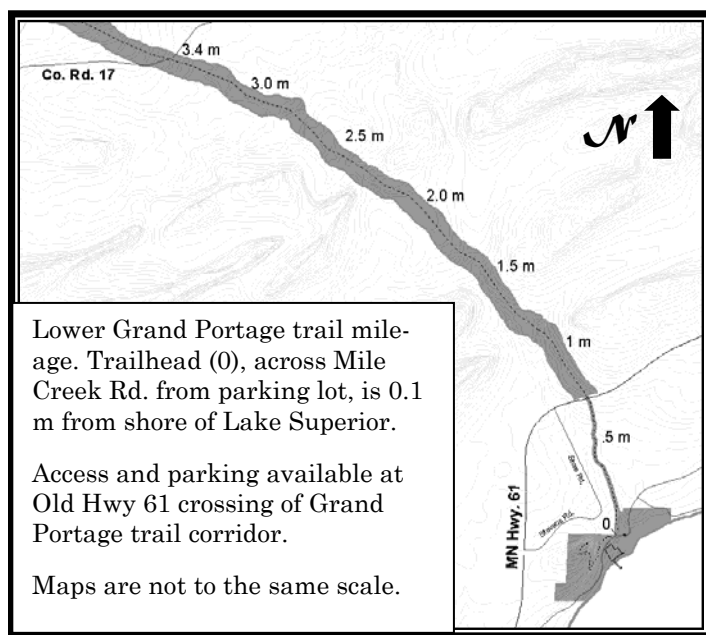
Very few eyewitness accounts of Fort Charlotte have survived. Fur traders' accounts are sparse, and what little they say is of the loading of the canoes at the river's edge and a few squabbles amongst the traders.

The physical evidence of Fort Charlotte is a little more revealing of its history. The first effort to document the remains of the old fort was in 1922, when the Minnesota Historical Society sent a team to survey the site. Using cameras and homemade yardsticks, the team carefully measured old trench lines, cellars, and chimney rubble piles to develop an accurate map of Fort Charlotte and an adjacent fort (whose name has not survived) owned by the short-lived XY Company, a hostile competitor in the fur trade.

In the 1970s, a team of divers under the direction of archeologist Douglas Birk carefully conducted underwater archeological excavations on the riverbed offshore of Fort Charlotte. The excavations yielded many artifacts illustrating hundreds and perhaps thousands of years of human use of the Grand Portage and Pigeon River. Stone tool remnants suggest very early use of the portage by native peoples. French artifacts from the 1730s to 1750s included ceramics, bottle glass, gunflints, buttons, and beads. The area of the North West Company dock yielded British-period artifacts (1760s-1803) including axes, musket balls, hardware, lead bale seals, trade silver, beads, fragments of canoes, canoe paddles, dishware, glassware, bottles, shoes, moccasins, smoking pipes, buttons, kettles, barrel staves, window panes, knives, an inkwell, and fire steels. Bottle glass and pipe stems dated to the American period (1804-present) were also found in this area.

The archeological excavations produced a more detailed view of Fort Charlotte, including examples of the supplies that were stored and loaded there, components of canoes, remains of the Northwesters' wharf, and examples of the everyday possessions and tools used by the fort's residents.

Today, the site is heavily overgrown with brush and trees. The National Park Service protects the site as an important archeological resource and databank, but many visitors do not have the ability and time to visit this remote backcountry site, and those few who do have a difficult time imagining what this place



A Rough Guide to the Grand Portage

0.5 to 1.0 m

The Grand Portage crosses through time, and across MN Hwy 61, along this stretch. Trader journals mention the "parting trees" near this area, where they entered the woods and lost sight of Grand Portage, the Bay and Lake Superior. It is still where you enter the woods of the voyageurs.

1.5 m

A gap in the steep highlands was an important landscape feature that determined the location of a suitable portage. It developed along a geological fault zone, where erosional forces could remove materials more easily than from the surrounding ridges.

1.5-2.5 m

This section of the Grand Portage has short steep slopes where the trail passes through two smaller gaps and stream drainages.

3.0 m

A footbridge carries the trail across Poplar Creek. Analysis of surveys from the 1820s and recent field research provide evidence that today's trail is closely aligned with the historic Grand Portage at this point.

3.4 m

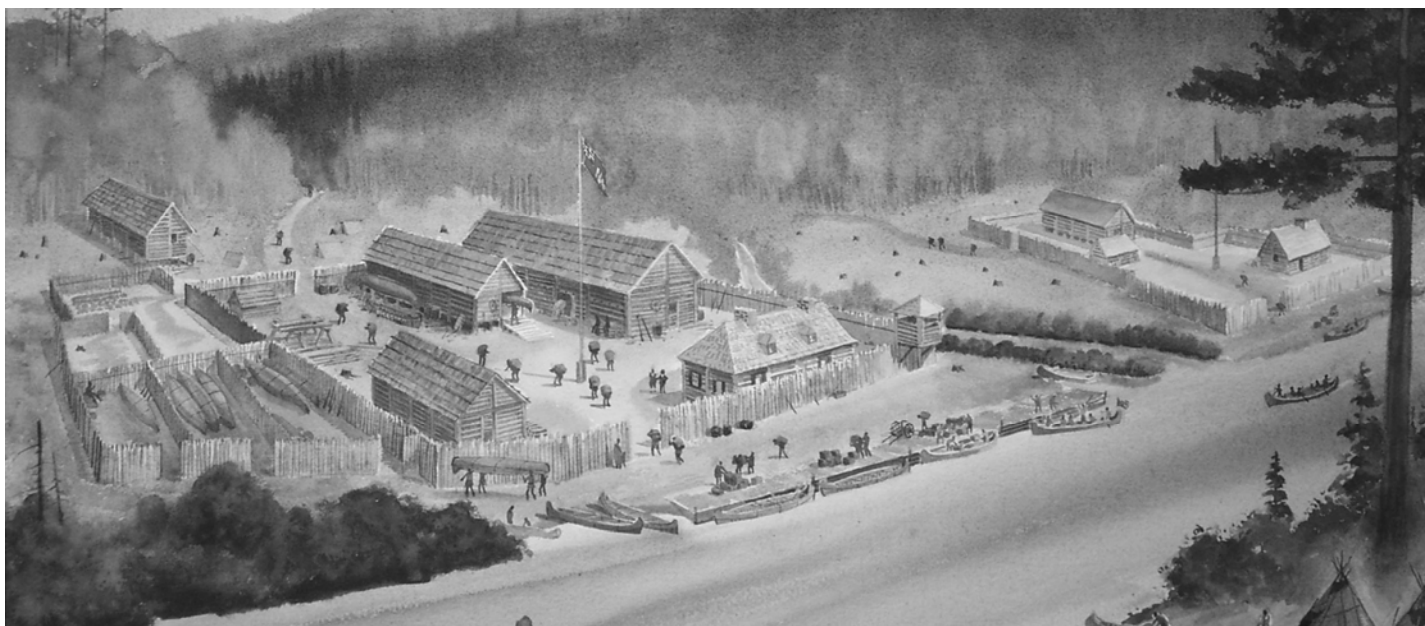
Registration boxes at the trailheads on both sides of Old Hwy 61 make it easy for hikers to check in or leave comments, whether headed to Ft. Charlotte or Lake Superior.

Mile 0

There was probably no single trailhead for all the traders spread along Grand Portage Bay. The most direct route from the Grand Portage possibly ran to the lake on the east side of the stream.

0 to 0.5 m

During the 1930s and 1940s, several Village structures were relocated from the lakeshore area of the Monument to sites farther inland. This first section of the Grand Portage passes through the heart of the modern Anishinabe community.



Fort Charlotte

by Howard Sivertson

must have looked like over two hundred years ago.

How does one bring such an interesting place as Fort Charlotte back to life, a place whose residents are long gone, and where there are no photographs, drawings, or detailed reminiscences to guide us?

For this task, Grand Portage National Monument turned to North Shore artist Howard Sivertson. Son of an Isle Royale commercial fishing family, Howard has used his considerable artistic talents, throughout his storied career, to bring together the present and the past in rich detail: the world of 1930s fisher-

(Continued on page 13)

3.4 to 4.5 m

A few large red pine are scattered among the aspen-birch-spruce-fir forest as the Grand Portage gradually ascends a ridge. A historic pose (rest spot) may have been located along this grade.

4.5 to 5.5 m

Distant highlands can be glimpsed through the trees as the trail passes along the crest of a ridge. Large white pine are found amid ancient white cedars, which were well grown trees even when the voyageurs passed here.

6.0 m

The 1820s surveys indicate the Grand Portage cut through a dry “beaver meadow,” instead of the pond-wetland complex found today. Beavers were driven nearly to extinction by the fur trade, but today a 1/8th-mile-long footbridge tops an actively maintained dam, and passes within a few feet of the resident beaver's lodge.

6.5 to 7.0 m

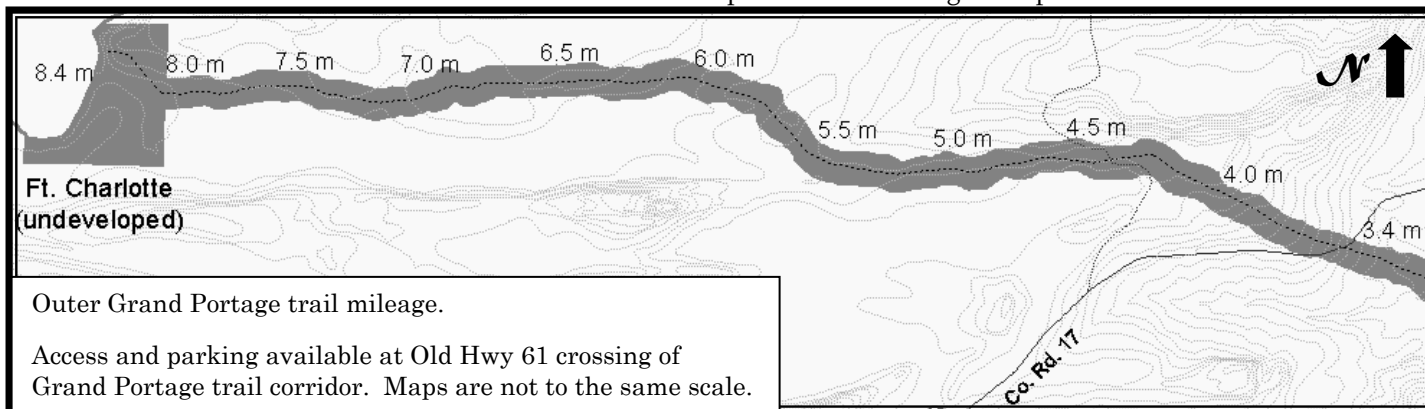
The outer portage is shielded from the moderating effect of Lake Superior by the ridges and highlands it passes through. As a result, both daily and seasonal temperatures are more extreme than along the eastern sections of trail. It can be 25-30°F warmer near Ft. Charlotte than on the lakeshore during the summer.

7.0 to 8.0 m

The distance from roads and other sources of disturbance makes evidence of wildlife more abundant along the outer portage corridor. Watch for moose and bear, and listen for wolves.

8.4 m

Canoeists still use the Pigeon River and the Grand Portage to complete journeys from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Two group sites and a latrine are provided for overnight campers.



(Continued from page 7)

just amazes me.”

“I also have great admiration and respect for the voyageurs, for the physical and mental strength they would have had to possess to make the trip in and out of the interior of the continent each year, carrying those heavy packs and canoes on their backs over the grueling portages. What a life that must have been! As a photographer, in order to get my images I often hike to places around here that most people don’t see. Once you’ve spent any amount of time traveling on foot over the rugged, rocky ridges and wet, swampy lowlands of this area you really gain a sense of understanding and admiration for what those guys did.”

“Grand Portage has changed a lot in recent years, and today is a much busier place than it was when I was a kid growing up here. Still, even with all the new activity, the place remains little-known and relatively few people have heard of it. To most, Grand Portage is just a little dot on the map. To me, it is everything. I grew up here, and I have always lived here. Grand Portage is home, and I suspect it always will be. It is a magical place,



January Night on Pigeon River

Travis Novitsky

filled with beauty and history. When I was younger, almost all of my friends couldn’t wait to finish school so they could leave town. Nothing to do here, they said. I have never understood that sentiment. I have never been bored here. I was hiking up Mt. Josephine at dusk one time in early Novem-

ber, and the moon was low in the sky, having just risen. There was absolutely NO wind this evening, and as I was standing at the viewpoint just before you get to the summit, I was watching the moon continue to rise over the Susie Islands, then I turned and followed the shoreline with my eyes around to Grand Portage Bay, and the colors throughout the entire sky were unbelievable. The whole scene reminded me.....this is why I LOVE living in Grand Portage!”

“Another one of the many times where I felt incredibly thankful to live where I do came on the night of January 2, 2007. I had decided to take a middle-of-the-night trip to Partridge Falls, since there was a full moon and we had not yet received very much snow, so it was still possible to drive the truck up the road to the falls. I left the house at about 1:00 am, arriving at the falls roughly an hour later. I spent the next two hours taking photographs of the Pigeon River by moonlight. I have really come to enjoy night-time photography. Long exposures coupled with bright moonlight sometimes allow you to get images that look as though they were shot during the day. The resulting images are almost always fascinating. On this particular night, the moonlight was creating some very interesting reflections on the falls and the light almost looked as though it was coming from WITHIN the water itself. It was a magical night, and the day before we had received a light snowfall, which stuck to the trees more so than normal, and I knew that if I was to get some good shots, I had to go that night.....the next day was calling for warmer temperatures and higher winds, and possibly cloudy skies....so I decided that tired or not, that was the night to



Partridge Falls in Moonlight

Travis Novitsky

go. The drive along Partridge Falls road was spectacular.....in some places the snow had weighted down the bushes along the road so they were partially hanging over into the road.....at times it was like driving through a snow ‘tunnel.’ That evening it had cooled enough that as my headlights washed over the snow-covered trees and shrubs, each individual snowflake sparkled and twinkled as though they were tiny diamonds. When I got out of the car alongside the river at the start of the trail to the falls, there was absolutely no wind, and there were just enough clouds in the sky to give the images more life. As I walked the trail to the falls, the fresh snow revealed the tracks of many critters of the forest.....I saw squirrel tracks, snowshoe hare tracks, and at one point a couple of otter ‘slides’ that crossed the trail and made their way down to an opening in the river ice. On this night I was reminded, yet again, of why I love living where I do.”

“Most often it’s the scenery that really grabs your attention.....but encounters with wildlife are the moments I treasure most. I was hiking on the Mt. Rose trail in winter one time and on the way back down the trail, I was followed almost the whole distance by a bunch of chickadees. The Mt. Rose trail is known for its friendly chickadees, but this batch was especially friendly. They were landing on branches so close to me that they were

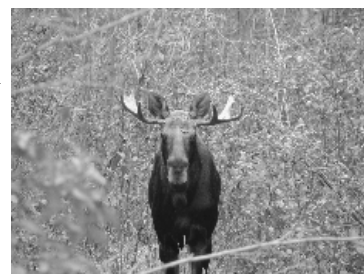


Friendly Chickadee

Travis Novitsky

within the 6 foot minimum focus distance of my 300mm lens, so I had to actually back up so the lens would be able to focus on the birds. That’s the first time I’ve had to *back up* to take a picture of a chickadee! They are such small birds it’s usually difficult to get them to fill the frame.”

“My favorite moose encounter came one day in the fall when I had gone down to a section of the Lake Superior shoreline to photograph beach rocks. To my surprise, when I got down to the beach there was a young male moose standing on the beach right at the water’s edge. You need to be wary of moose in the fall, especially males, so rather than hang around I decided to go back to the car. Well, the moose was curious about me so he began to follow me. It was about a quarter mile back to the car, and I stopped every hundred feet or so, and looked over my shoulder to see if the moose was still following. Every time I looked, he was cautiously following me, about 50 feet behind. When I got back to the highway, I got in the car and watched from the car as the moose stared at me for a few moments, then, as if to say ‘Well, fine then,’ he slowly turned his head away, then stepped over the guardrail and crossed the highway, continuing into the woods on the other side.”



Curious Moose

Travis Novitsky

“I have done a fair amount of traveling in the past few years, and with all of the amazing places I have seen, there is no place I would rather live than here. I love to travel and I love seeing new places....and there have been countless times where the beauty of an area has taken my breath away. I have driven to Florida,

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this area and doing so changed how fish and other foods could be preserved. Fish would be put in barrels with salty brine; Ojibwe could now catch and preserve them in the summer time insuring a crucial food source would be more readily available during the harsh winter months when food was often scarce. Additionally, fur trade clerks and company partners brought paper, pen, and books to distant places. They kept track of what was traded, by whom, and as a result, unfortunately saddled Ojibwe with extreme debts by way of their accounting techniques. The high value of beaver pelts and accounting for individuals' trapping efforts, whether many or few furs were traded, were two crucial parts to foisting a new idea about property among Ojibwe. While Ojibwe already had a sense of family places with their fall fishery locations and sugar bushes to which they would return to each spring to make maple sugar, individual property – pelts, and other goods – became an increasing part of Ojibwe life as a result of the fur trade.

The fur trade mixed the new-comers' ideas and goods with those of the Ojibwe residents. With the mixing, new solutions were made. Many of the buildings at Grand Portage likely had birch bark roofs, held down by heavy poles – blending old world knowledge with that of the Ojibwe. Traditional canoe routes of the Ojibwe were

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been to the southwest numerous times, as well as explored most of the western coast of the U.S., including Alaska. I have even been to Europe, having visited France, Italy and Switzerland. I have seen many wondrous things on my journeys, but my heart always comes back to Grand Portage. This area is constantly reminding me of how beautiful it is. I only hope that, through my images, I am able to at least partially convey that beauty and sense of awe and wonder that I feel about this place, my home.”

Time travel is something people have thought about for generations. Because of the visions of present and past master artisans, we are able to “travel through time” at different levels, layers and dimensions. One wonders who will be the communicators 100 years from now and what message will they convey about this

(Continued from page 11)

men, 1850s sailors, and 1790s voyageurs and Ojibwe people.

Using the 1922 archeological map, historical depictions of other fur trade posts, current photographs of the Fort Charlotte area, knowledge of fur trade architecture, clothing, and work practices, and his own imagination, Howard has brought Fort Charlotte out of the misty past, and presented it on a busy summer day in the 1790s. Down-bound brigades of North canoes are unloaded of their winter bounty of furs. Heavily-burdened men carry 180- pound loads of furs towards the Fort Charlotte warehouses, or head east down the Grand Portage towards the main depot on Lake Superior. Exhausted men return up the portage, bearing pack loads of trade goods and provisions destined for the Northwest. The valuable North canoes are stored in small

mapped with the technology of white explorers. Barrels holding salted fish in brine were sometimes held together with watap – split spruce root – when iron was unavailable or too dear to use. Winter mittens were made of beaver pelts with the luxurious fur inside but trimmed with European cloth or beads. Ojibwe craftspeople worked in lodges sewing these mittens. Ojibwe women worked in Grand Portage buildings to turn out watap to sew together North Canoes or repair the larger Montreal Canoes. The Great Hall – the size of it and its contents – was made to impress workers, Indians, and business partners. It also became a place to store valuables such as rare maps of the interior of North America.

Today as then, buildings provide us the place to learn, to store what we find valuable, and are places to inspire. We hope this new Heritage Center will be such a place. Best of all, the building is meant for everyone.

Thank you to all who contributed to its construction. Years ago, when Grand Portage National Monument was established with the donation of many acres by the Grand Portage people and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, a promise was made. The promise was that a visitor center and museum would be built. Finally, it is done. Thank you to those who have worked very hard to keep that promise. And again welcome to this beautiful building.

extraordinary place we known as *Kitchie Onigaming*, “the Great Carrying Place,” the Grand Portage. One thing we do know, these communicators will build upon the work of those masters who have gone before. The staff of Grand Portage National Monument hopes that this exhibition allows you to pause from the hustle and bustle of everyday life; reflect on the past, enjoy the present and look to the future.



Spirit Tree Moonrise

Travis Novitsky

picketed enclosures at the north end of the fort, to protect them from the XY Company, whose new, smaller fort sits just upstream, and where a small brigade of XY canoes are unloading. Ojibwe Indians camp in bark lodges on the opposite shore, making and repairing North canoes for the traders, visiting Grand Portage to conduct their own trade, or perhaps passing through on a fishing and food-gathering expedition to nearby Isle Royale.

The Howard Sivertson painting of Fort Charlotte is on display in the new Grand Portage Heritage Center, along with many original artifacts from Fort Charlotte. We hope you'll be able to visit the new center to learn more about the fascinating history of Grand Portage and Fort Charlotte.

AREA INFORMATION:

There are a few places nearby to purchase light meals, snacks, gas, and other necessities.

The food and lodging information provided here is for the convenience of our visitors, and is not an endorsement by the National Park Service.

SERVICES:

Grand Portage Trading Post, Post Office & SPUR Gas – Drive about 1/2 mile west (a right hand turn out of Heritage Center parking lot) on Mile Creek Road. The Trading Post, Post Office and SPUR gas station are on the right between Mile Creek Road and Highway 61. Phone: 218-475-2282

Grand Portage Lodge/Gift Shop – Drive about 1/2 mile west on Mile Creek Road. The Grand Portage Lodge is on the left at the stop sign. Phone: 218-475-2401

Ryden's Border Store, Cafe Hotel & Phillip 66 Gas – Located 3 miles north of Grand Portage National Monument on Highway 61. At any junction to Highway 61 in Grand Portage, turn right (east) on Highway 61. Follow Highway 61 to Ryden's on your left. Phone: 218-475-2330

Voyageurs Marina – Located about 1 1/2 miles from the monument. Follow Mile Creek Road east over stone bridge. Follow County Road 17 to your left, up over the hill and past the church and school. Continue to follow County Road 17 1 1/2 miles, to the east side of the bay. The marina will be on your right. Under new management. Phone 218-475-2476.

CAMPGROUNDS:

Grand Portage Marina & Campground – Marina Rd. (adjacent to Grand Portage Lodge & Casino), Grand Portage, MN, 55605. Phone 218-475-2476

Judge Magney State Park – 4051 E Hwy 61, Grand Marais, MN, 55604. Phone: 218-387-3039

Grand Marais Recreation Area – Highway 61, Grand Marais, MN, 55604. Phone: 218-387-1712

LOCAL STATE PARKS:

Grand Portage State Park – 9393 E Hwy 61, 5 miles east of Grand Portage. Offers a scenic trail to the spectacular Pigeon Falls. The park has a visitor contact station and sales area. There are no camping facilities. Phone: 218-475-2360

Judge C.R. Magney State Park – 4051 E Hwy 61, 14 miles west of Grand Portage. Offers trout fishing and white-water kayaking on the Brule River. There are 6 miles of summer hiking trails and 5 miles of winter ski trails. A well-maintained trail winds along the river to the Upper and Lower Falls and the Devil's Kettle, a large pothole into which half of the river disappears. Phone: 218-387-3039

Cascade River State Park – 3481 W Hwy 61, 45 miles west of Grand Portage. Offers spectacular waterfalls along the Cascade River. There are also scenic overlooks of Lake Superior. There are 18 miles of trails through a birch and spruce forest. The park has a 40-site campground, picnic facilities, and plenty of lake and river fishing. Phone: 218-387-3053

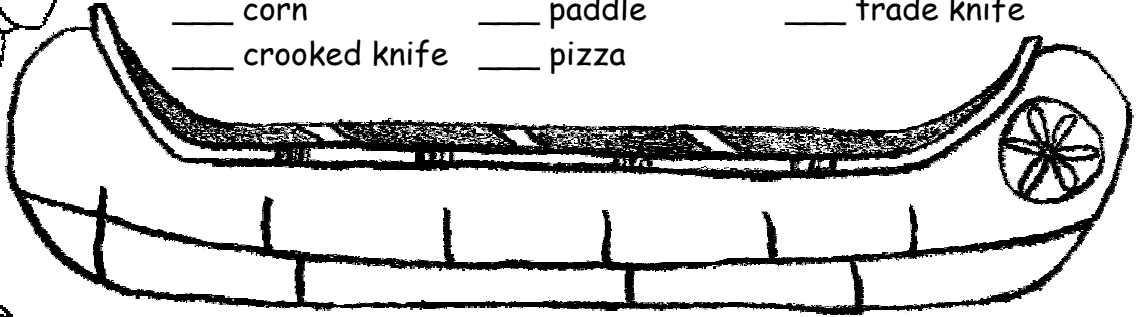
Need Special Assistance?

For help or questions concerning accessibility at the park, please contact any park ranger, or Accessibility Coordinator, Ranger Jon Sage.

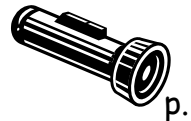
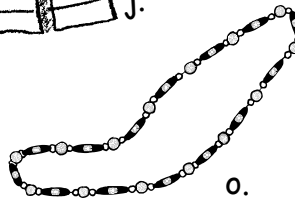
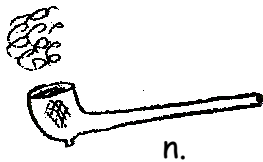
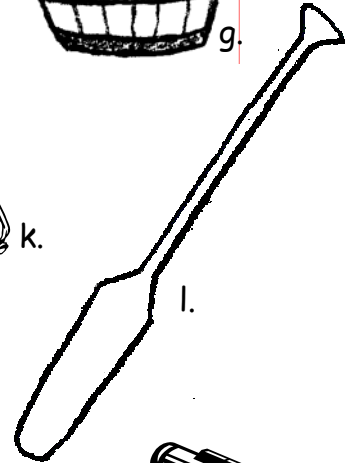
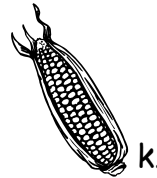
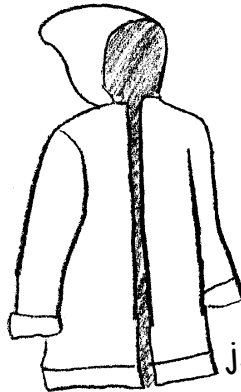
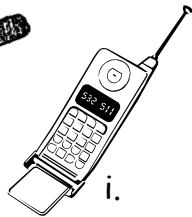
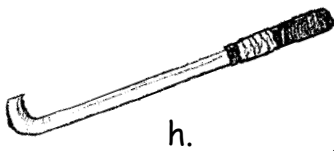
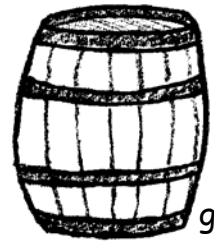
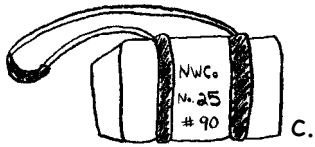
218-475- 0123 Voice/TDD

jon_sage@nps.gov

Pierre did very well at the Grand Portage Rendezvous.
 Help him pack his canoe for winter in
 the north woods. What will he need?



- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| ___ barrel | ___ flag | ___ sneakers |
| ___ capote | ___ flashlight | ___ striker (fire steel) |
| ___ cell phone | ___ iron kettle | ___ trade beads |
| ___ clay pipe | ___ pack | ___ trade knife |
| ___ corn | ___ paddle | |
| ___ crooked knife | ___ pizza | |



Circle the items he should pack, then color Pierre and his canoe!

Pierre would not have the pizza, cell phone, sneakers or flashlight.
 Order of item letters are: g, j, i, n, k, h, a, p, m, c, l, b, d, e, o, and f.

A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU ENJOY YOUR VISIT

Lead Park Ranger Jon Sage

- Wear sturdy footwear when walking on Monument trails. Please stay on the trails. Watch closely for roots and uneven ground to avoid tripping.
 - Do not drink water from streams or lakes unless you first boil or treat it.
 - Never hike alone. Always tell a friend/relative where you are going, and when you plan to return.
 - When hiking in the backcountry during summer months, the use of insect repellent and/or head nets is strongly recommended.
-

REMINDERS AND HELPFUL INFORMATION

- Notify a park employee if you encounter any situation you feel is unsafe.
 - All plants and animals are protected within Monument boundaries. Please help us protect them by not feeding animals or picking plants.
 - Pets and smoking are not permitted inside the palisade walls or inside buildings.
 - Please keep bicycles out of the palisade and secured to the bike rack provided. Do not lock bicycles to sign posts or trees.
 - A picnic area is located east of the palisade across Grand Portage Creek, and may be reached by walking the path between the creek and the palisade and crossing the footbridge.
-

VISITING ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK

For information about ferry service to Isle Royale National Park please ask park staff.

For more information about Grand Portage National Monument, contact:

Superintendent, Grand Portage National Monument

P.O. Box 426, 170 Mile Creek Road, Grand Portage, Minnesota, 55605.

Voice/TDD: 218-475-0123

Visit our website at www.nps.gov/grpo,

or contact us by e-mail at: GRPO_interpretation@nps.gov

This document can be obtained in alternate formats.

Please contact the park's accessibility coordinator to make a request.