

Northern Lakes Winter Event

On February 9 our WCHA Northern Lakes Chapter visited the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) to view some birch bark canoes and the Toronto Reference Library to view a number of historic Canoe Catalogues. The event was organized and led by Murat Vardar and a special thanks goes to him for putting together an interesting afternoon.

The event was attended by Murat Vardar, his neighbour Ben Wagner, Pam Wedd, Jane Liddell, their friend Francie Aspinall, Bill Molesworth, Al and Pat Witham, Rob Stevens, and me.

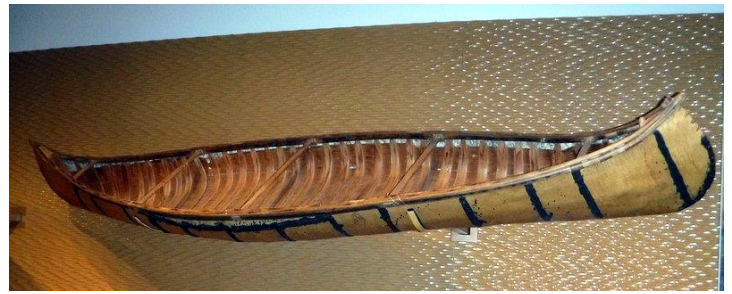
The ROM display was in the First Nation Gallery where four birch bark canoes were on display. One of the canoes will be the focus of an upcoming journal article in *Wooden Canoe*, written by Murat. If you visit the ROM this public display is free of charge.



Murat explains historic paddle design to Pat, Jane, and Ben.

Below are some photos of the canoes and members viewing them.





Our Next stop was the Toronto Reference Library where we were able to review the following Canoe Catalogues

- 1899 J.H Rushton Illustrated Catalogue
- 1908 Chestnut Canoe Co Catalogue
- 1915 Peterborough Canoe Co
- 1915 Brown Canoe Co
- 1927 J.J. Turner & Sons Catalogue (mostly Canadian Canoe Co boats)
- 1950 Chestnut Canoe Co (reprint from 1998)
- 1967 Lakefield / Rilco Catalogue

Four of the catalogues are not in the WCHA collection so Murat has filled out the necessary forms to have the library supply us with digital copies.



Here we have Ben Murat, Rob, and Al discussing the catalogues



Rob and Pam reviewing a catalogue

A surprise display was a recreation of Sir Conan Doyle's study, a fun addition to the afternoon



We concluded the evening with dinner at a local restaurant.



Again a special Thank you to Murat for organizing and leading the tours, and for the people who attended. Participants were from Toronto, Midland, Orville, Renfrew, and Hamilton.