

The **Art Zone Studio**

The Original **Outdoor Visual Arts Experience**

NEWSLETTER COVID-19 Edition #1

November 2020

Come see the best art selection ever at the **Art Zone Studio**
Autumn Art Show and Sale 2 - 5 p.m. on select days.

Original paintings, drawings, sculpture, garden art, limited edition prints, Inuit and African sculpture, affordable framing of works by studio artists, and more. Great art and savings exclusively at the **Art Zone Studio**.

With the lifting of provincial and municipal restrictions to the continuing coronavirus Pandemic in August/September the studio is now open in rural northern York Region and compliant with changing protocols in place for the recent modified Stage 2 (eg. Social distancing, face masks and hand sanitizer). Over the last few weeks we have had soft opening displays in this unique outdoor space. See studio open dates below for November.

Lots of inventory! Something to interest everyone.

See us in cottage country!

The Art Zone Studio is a unique Outdoor Visual Arts experience (weather dependent).

Art Zone Studio – Dates in **November** as follows

Anytime between 2 and 5 p.m. (weather dependent) **on the following dates:**

Thursdays November 5, 12th, 19th 26th.

Friday November 20, 27th

Sunday November 15. 22nd, 29th.

Monday November 9th.

Tuesday November 17, 24th.

Or, by chance...

e-mail ArtZoneStudioCanada@gmail.com or phone 905-722-8021
ahead if weather is questionable.

Featured artwork at The **Art Zone Studio**



Canadian Nature Artist

Paul Harpley

Limited Edition and
Original Art

Art Zone Studio

6045 Frog Street, Pefferlaw, ON L0E 1N0

905-722-8021

By Appointment OR By Chance

Original acrylic paintings, watercolours, drawings, sculpture, garden art, jewelry. Canadian artists.

Also, African and Canadian Inuit Art.

Other artists represented: Graham Ames, Natcho Franzoi, Janet Harpley-Aco and Thomas Amoah.

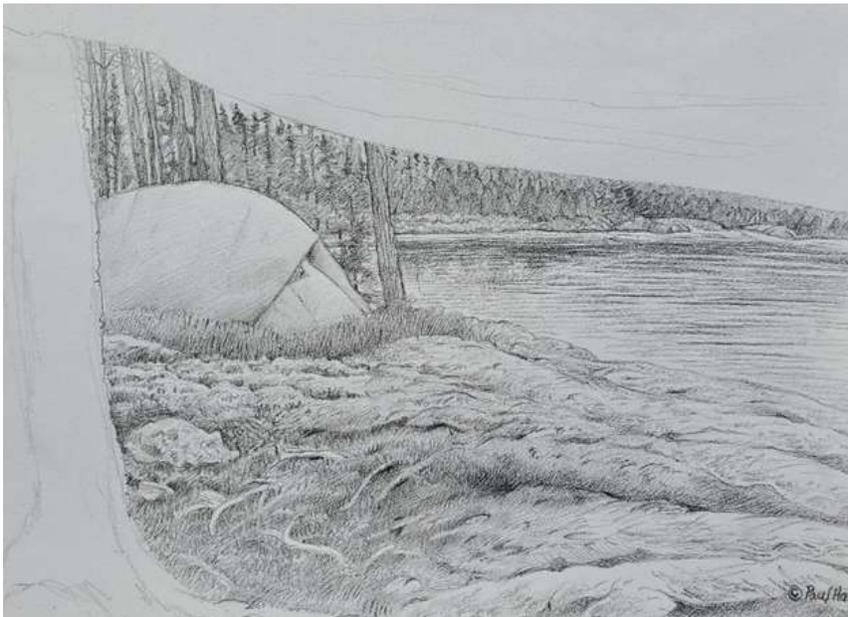


Quetico Provincial Park Adventure

I had planned to join a canoe expedition of 17 days on the historic Churchill River in far northern Saskatchewan this summer with the Explorers Club, an organization of which I am a Fellow International (F.I.'06). The brigade had been organized with some international members but when the COVID-19 Pandemic hit international members began falling out like flies as countries' borders hardened and then locked down. Canuck members and friends were asked to fill spots on the expedition team as Provincial borders closed. In the end the trip was cancelled by 100-year flooding event on the Churchill R. due to unusually high snowmelt events in the Canadian Rockies and foothills!

So wife Debra and I, our son Devon and his fiancée Leah made alternate plans to canoe “the Quetico” in far north-west Ontario. Debra and I had wanted to do an expedition there for over 30 years but with our busy lives could never put two weeks together to do it. The COVID Pandemic allowed us to do it! We were in the Park interior the week of July 20.

Quetico Provincial Park is one of Ontario’s finest wilderness canoeing destinations, and unique in North America. With over 450,000 hectares of protected wilderness filled with thousands of interconnected lakes, rivers and streams, Quetico offers a lifetime of canoe tripping opportunities. It is distinguished by the park interior wilderness experience still having unmarked camp sites and area organization by zones.



© Paul Harpley, copyright image

Pickerel Lake Campsite Sketch,



Pickerel Lake photo

© P. Harpley

There were many areas with evidence of past fires. Fire is an essential part of the park's ecosystem and plays a role in maintaining the ecological integrity of Quetico by reviewing forests, and in turn creating a patchwork of different habitats for the park's wildlife. Paddling by river initially then into the large Pickerel Lake we could see various past fire areas at different stages of forest regeneration. These events are important for moose management and conservation in the park, the moose being iconic images of Quetico.

The open dark skies with starry shows without a hint of light from urban centers is surely one of the great pleasures of this place. Presently, talking to Park staff the park and surrounding regions are currently working together to apply for international Dark Sky Park designation. We were indeed fortunate to be there during July, when a special visitor to the inner solar system became visible in the early morning sky, that was expected to remain visible for much of the season. The Comet C/2020 F3 (NEOWISE) was first discovered on March 27, 2020, as it approached the Sun from below the ecliptic plane, on its way back to the outer reaches of the solar system, having survived its trip around the Sun the comet was putting on a show in the predawn sky.



Quetico landscape sketch

© Paul Harpley, copyright image



Indian pipe plant photo

© P. Harpley

The name “Quetico” comes from the Ojibway word, “gwe too maang”. And according to the local Lac La Croix First Nation refers to how they view this sacred land, a place spiritual to these people. Human history in the Park area extends back at least 9,000 years with indigenous peoples.

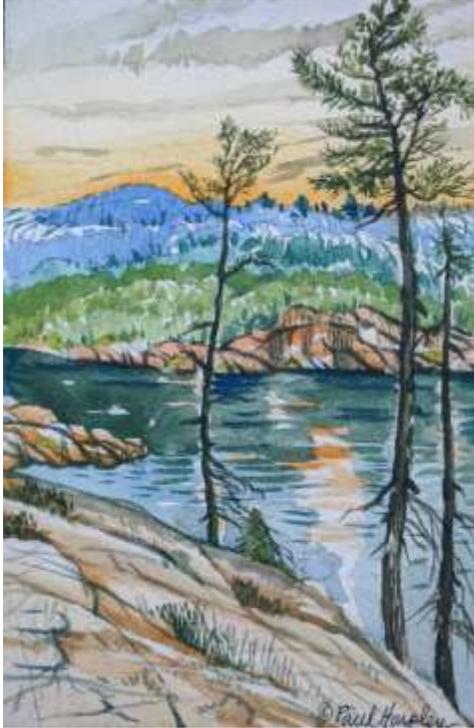
Back in 1965 geographer Bruce M. Littlejohn wrote an introduction to a special article on the area for the Canadian Geographical Journal that fairly interprets our experience in this spectacular wilderness,

“Between Lake Superior and the prairie’s edge lies a region known simply as “the Quetico”. This is a landscape of tangled lakes and rivers, of rocky islands and towering granite cliffs, of misty mornings and splendid sunsets, of beaver, moose, and loon”.

Images of Killarney

A New Series of very Limited Edition reproduction Prints by Paul Harpley

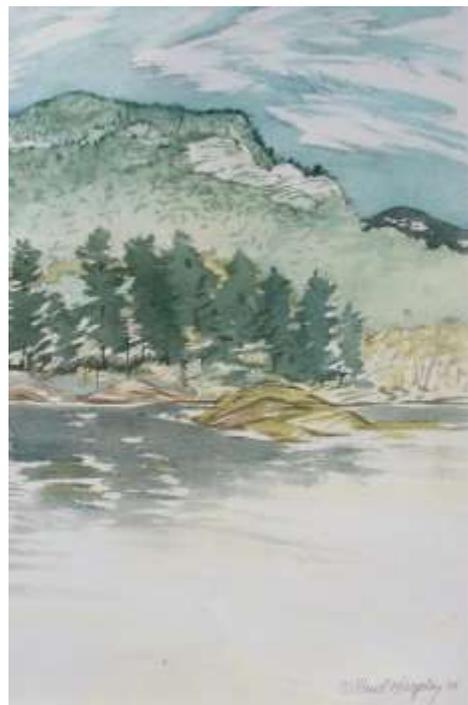
These very limited editions reproduction prints are a wide-ranging selection of Paul Harpley works in various media over three decades of wilderness travel. They represent a range of landscape paintings of diverse place, weather and impressions of the unique scenes of the park.



© Paul Harpley, copyright image
Killarney, Lookout Trail watercolour



© Paul Harpley, copyright image
Killarney, George Lake Windy summer day watercolour



© Paul Harpley, copyright image

Killarney P.P. Lake and La Cloche Mountains watercolour



© Paul Harpley, copyright image

Silver Peak Killarney watercolour

© Paul Harpley, copyright image

Silver Peak view drawing, Killarney Park

The series includes images of watercolour, acrylic and drawings from the field at Killarney Provincial Park, Georgian Bay and town of Killarney. Order your landscape of Killarney by e-mail

ArtZoneStudioCanada@gmail.com



Phone: **905-722-8021**

e-mail ArtZoneStudioCanada@gmail.com

Located west off Park Road on Frog Street,
one concession south of the hamlet of Egypt.

6045 Frog St.



Featuring a unique *Artist Studio* experience that focuses on Art inspired by Nature. The *Rustic Studio and Gallery space in the woods* located in Northern York Region south of Sutton in beautiful South Lake Simcoe. Experienced professional artists are represented. From time to time special art shows, art and naturalists' workshops will be featured, including guest artists. Full limited editions and original art collections of Canadian Nature Artist Paul Harpley featured. *Website:* harpley.ca

Affordable quality Picture Framing available.

Paintings, drawings, sculpture, photography, originals, prints and limited-edition reproductions.
e-mail ArtZoneStudioCanada@gmail.com

By appointment or by Chance

Conservation News

2020-09-11

New Scientist – WWF Report Findings

Wildlife crash - Global

Global populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish have fallen an average of 68 per cent globally since 1970, declining at a rate faster than previously predicted, according to the 2020 Living Planet Report by the conservation group WWF. The report draws on data covering 20,811 populations of 4392 vertebrate species. The largest drops identified in the report are in South America, Central America and the Caribbean, where the average size of monitored wildlife populations has declined by 94 per cent. It also highlights that three-quarters of ice-free land on Earth has been significantly changed by human activity and more than 85 per cent of the area covered by wetlands has been lost globally.

Georgina in York Region is home to many of Canada's at-risk species

Paul Harpley was one of the naturalists recently interviewed regarding the recent World Wildlife Fund report on the global problem of endangered species and species at risk around the world, in Canada and Ontario. The South Lake Simcoe area including the Town of Georgina is important in providing species at risk forest, wetland and grassland meadow vital habitats for many species at risk.



Paul Harpley

Georgina Post

By: Michelle Poirier

The population of Ontario's at-risk species are in decline, according to a new report, and many of these species live right here in Georgina.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Canada recently released The Living Planet Report Canada 2020, which reported that populations of at-risk Canadian species have declined by 59 per cent and threatened species of global conservation concern have declined in Canada by 42 per cent, from 1970 to 2016.

According to the species at-risk section of the Ontario website, endangered species face imminent extinction or extirpation; threatened species are not endangered, but are likely to become endangered if steps are not taken; and species of special concern are not endangered or threatened, but may become so.

Paul Harpley, president of the South Lake Simcoe Naturalists, said Blanding's turtles, a threatened species, spotted turtles, an endangered species, and short-eared owls, a species of

special concern, are additional species at-risk that were historically more common in Georgina, but have not been seen as frequently.

Mr. Harpley said he suggests the community become more engaged with nature, and utilize the regional forests, Sibbald Point Provincial Park and Lake Simcoe to learn more about the ecosystems around us.

“Things like snapping turtles; they are a species of concern that the average person who is not really that engaged would not think as locally at risk, because you can see them all the time. They cross the roads, they get hit by cars and they are around a lot,” he said. . . **Read the full article at <https://georginapost.com/2020/09/09/georgina-is-home-to-many-of-canadas-at-risk-wildlife/>**

Lake Simcoe Act and Plan Review

2020-06-26

Hon. Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Government of Ontario, M.P.P. for Elgin, Middlesex, London

Re: Review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan

The South Lake Simcoe Naturalists (SLSN), an Ontario Nature member organization, has been active in natural heritage conservation, recreation, and natural history research for over 30 years in the South Lake Simcoe region. Instrumental in the movement to establish and support implementation of the Lake Simcoe Act and Plan (LSAP) since 2008, when it was enacted, we have eagerly anticipated the ten-year review of the Act and Plan, that we were expecting in 2019. Especially recognizing the considerable documented increase in phosphorus loading, increasing urban development pressures and climate change impacts we feel this review of the LSAP should be undertaken by the Province of Ontario as soon as possible.

Our organization is a member of the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition, engaged in the recent “Protect our Plan” campaign. **We would like to encourage your government, and your Ministry to act now to undertake an administrative review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP).** It is considered by many to be the best watershed management plan in Canada. However, it is well-known that the world, and local Canadian environmental conditions are dynamic. Scientific monitoring results must support decisions to change the LSAP. It is our recommendation that science-based research and evaluation are necessary now. After review/analysis an adaptive management approach to the review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan can proceed.

Also, we are advised phosphorus loads to the lake have gone up since the LSAP came into effect in 2009. Consequently, with regard to planning, clear and transparent process in review, for how we are going to achieve the targets of the LSAP is necessary now. Any easing restrictions on phosphorus loads to the lake, changes to present sewage treatment loading (ie. the Upper York Sewage System) or communal sewage systems should not be added to the watershed before a comprehensive analysis of the phosphorus loads has been completed. This would ensure a measurable and implementable science-based phosphorus reduction strategy .

Paul Harpley BSc. (Hons.) M.A. EC/F.I.'06
President, SLSN

c.c. Lake Simcoe area M.P.P.'s

News Friday July 17, 2020: The Ontario Government

News Release

Ontario Taking Action to Further Protect Lake Simcoe

Province invests over \$500,000 as part of ongoing work to improve the health of the lake

July 17, 2020 11:05 A.M.

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

BARRIE — The Ontario government announced today that it is investing \$581,000 in four new projects to help find better ways to reduce the amount of pollutants, such as phosphorus, from entering Lake Simcoe. Local projects like these are key to restoring and protecting Lake Simcoe and its watershed and support the province's commitment to protect our air, land and water, as outlined in the [Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#).

These projects will build on the significant progress already made. A report released today by the Ontario government shows the health of Lake Simcoe is improving as a result of actions taken to protect and restore the lake and its watershed.

"Ten years ago, local environmental and conservation organizations, advocates and all levels of government came together as a community to restore the Lake Simcoe watershed, resulting in the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan," said Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "Today, we are celebrating the progress we have made together to protect and preserve this vital region, and I look forward to continuing this work."

The 10-year report on Lake Simcoe shows the restoration of more than 15 kilometres of degraded shorelines, the planting of more than 55,000 trees and shrubs, and the creation and restoration of 120 hectares of wetlands have resulted in encouraging signs of recovery including:

- A 50 per cent reduction in phosphorus loads from sewage treatment plants entering the watershed;
- Decreased amounts of algae over time; and
- The successful reproduction of cold water fish such as lake trout, lake whitefish and cisco.

"The results of the 10-year report are very encouraging, but there is more work to be done," said Andrea Khanjin, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and MPP for Barrie-Innisfil. "We all have a role to play to restore and protect the lake and I am proud Ontario will continue working to keep Lake Simcoe clean."

Protecting and restoring the health of Lake Simcoe requires collaboration with key partners, including local conservation authorities, Indigenous communities, municipalities, agricultural and commercial sectors and residents. This fall, the government is inviting all its partners, including the general public, to participate in a 10-year review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan to see if it needs to be updated.

- The restoration of Lake Simcoe and its watershed is a key commitment of the Ontario Government's Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan.
- Since 2009, the province's actions to protect and restore Lake Simcoe have been guided by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, which focuses on the lake's water

quality, reducing phosphorus levels, caring for natural heritage, and addressing the impacts of invasive species and other emerging threats.

- In the lake, total spring and ice-free (May through October) phosphorus concentrations have been consistently low since the 2015 Five-Year Report and have dropped significantly from 1980 to 2018.
- Over the long term, the amount of algae in the lake has decreased, and deep water dissolved oxygen has improved, supporting the potential recovery of cold water fish.
- Cisco, a cold water fish whose population was once in steep decline, are continuing to show positive signs of recovery. After a 13-year closure, the cisco winter fishery was reopened in 2015, and cisco continues
- Over 450,000 people living in 22 municipalities depend on the Lake Simcoe watershed every day.

Experts are trying to stop a huge bird hunt in Canada



Based on nest counts, the provincial government estimates there are a minimum of 143,000 breeding cormorants in 344 colonies in Ontario. (Robert Krbavac/CBC)

2020-09-08

Blog T.O.

People in Ontario are not happy that the provincial government has approved a mass hunt of the [double-crested cormorant bird](#), and now experts are trying to put an end to it.

In an [open letter](#) to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry John Yakabuski on Tuesday, 51 wildlife ecologists, aquaculture experts, environmental sciences experts and others are opening up about why this hunt is problematic.

"As ecologists, fisheries scientists and natural resource managers, we are concerned at the lack of scientific examination associated with the announcement," they wrote.

Back in July, the Ontario government announced a 106-day hunt of the aquatic bird to manage the population, which depletes fish stocks and whose droppings damage trees.

Hunters can take 15 birds per day, however, they are not required to report how many birds they've actually taken.

"No rationale is provided as to why a provincial wide hunt is being adopted instead of targeted localized management approaches," the letter continues.

"This hunt departs from two of the seven principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. First, that wildlife should only be killed for a legitimate, non-frivolous purpose. Second, that scientific management is the proper means for wildlife conservation."

In a statement to [CBC](#), a spokesperson for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry said that many people are concerned about the effect the birds have on their communities.

"Ontario currently has a healthy and sustainable cormorant population. The ministry will continue to monitor the double-crested cormorant population status and trends to support sustainability of cormorants in the province."

News of the hunt unsurprisingly garnered lots of backlash on social media.

[A petition](#) has started in hopes of stopping the hunt.

Hunters with an outdoors card and a small game license will be allowed to hunt the cormorant bird from Sept. 15 to Dec. 31.



Paul Harpley - Canada geese © Paul Harpley, copyright image