

**From the Chair:**

On Friday May 15 I headed north with a group of friends for our annual Boundary Waters canoe trip. We've been doing this for slightly more than 25 years. (Is it 26 or 28? I can't quite remember.) Gray and I have been on nearly every one and sometimes we do an additional fall trip, just the two of us. Will joined the group when he turned twelve and when he wasn't off at college or starting a new job has been there every time as well.



There is a rhythm to our trips. We leave early and stop for breakfast along the way at the Swamp Sisters outside of Twig, The Vanilla Bean in Two Harbors or any of a host of others along the way. We put in at our destination around noon and spend the weekend fishing, hiking, day-tripping and just laying in the sun. We've hit all kinds of weather and been tested by ice and sleet. Through it all we have created great stories, helped and been helped by strangers and watched stars fall while warming ourselves by a crackling fire.

This experience in the wild and in the communities that surround them it is what The Heart of the Continent Partnership was organized to sustain. A community of people and organizations working together to "sustain and celebrate the health, beauty, diversity and productivity of the natural and cultural resources of the border lakes region....to meet the needs of present and future generations."

Frank Jewell  
*HOCP Steering Committee Chair  
and St. Louis County Board*

**Recap of Travel the Heart Media Launch  
March 19-20**

- \*Glensheen Mansion, Duluth MN
- \*Grand Portage National Monument
- \*Fort William Historical Park

A well attended media launch at 3 venues National Geographic and the Heart of the Continent Design Team launched [www.traveltheheart.org](http://www.traveltheheart.org) to the world.



Jim Dion of National Geographic speaks at Fort William Historical Park

The goals of geotourism is to sustain and enhance the geographical character of a place—its environment, culture, aesthetics heritage, the communities and related public lands tourism destinations. Grand Portage Band Council member John Morrin said that *"this is why we, The Anishinaabe are involved"* The Heart of the Continent Partnership is proud to be National Geographic's newest Geotourism site.



Heart of the Continent was pleased to be able to be part of Iron Range Earthfest and had the chance to engage with hundreds of the visitors that took in the event on April 18 this year. Our booth was well

attended and there was a keen interest in who we are, what we have been doing, and our new designation as the latest National Geographic geotourism site. We were able to create awareness and excitement to many people and establish some good connections with some key

people and groups. People were pleased at the idea that we were showcasing the unique places in our area. The interactions really raised awareness in us too, that creating the web-site is only the beginning and we have a lot of work cut out for us in the next stages of this big project.



*"The Quetico Foundation is proud to be involved with the groundbreaking work of the Heart of the Continent Partnership. The outstanding leadership of the HOCP, has resulted in collaboration by all stakeholders, that has unsurpassed in North America!  
Congratulations!  
Richard Kelley  
The Quetico Foundation- Chairman*

**Next HOCP Meeting: June 25 –26  
2015—Sunny Cove Camp—Fort  
Frances Ontario  
Full agenda and to register  
online @  
<http://bit.ly/1L33HuP>**

**Dragon Boat festival June 27**

