

1969 Hudson Bay Trip Crew has 40th Reunion

On June 10, 2009, Wes Stone, Peter Vial, Dave Greenlee and Dave Hyink reunited to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their canoe trip to York Factory. They shared their slides and stories with the 2009 Northern Tier Staff on Alumni Day – the final day of Seasonal Staff Training.

Their trip retraced a portion of the fur trade route travelled by numerous parties, including former CBS newsman Eric Sevareid and described in *Canoeing with the Cree*. The crew travelled by automobile from Ely to Winnipeg and by air from Winnipeg to Norway House. After claiming their gear from the warehouse at the Hudson Bay Company Store, their route included paddling and portaging through three watersheds (Nelson, Hayes, and God rivers) to God's Lake; then down the God's River, to the Hayes and on to York Factory. They paddled around Marsh Point and then "tracked" back up the Nelson to a point near Mile 352 of the Canadian National Railroad where they flagged-down a passenger train for the 36 hour ride back to Winnipeg.

The reunion was a very special time for Stone, Vial, Greenlee and Hyink as it marked the first time since the end of the 1969 trip that all four had been together as a crew.



York Factory Logo



Dave Greenlee and Pete Vial on the God's River



“Have you ever stood where the silences brood
and the vast horizons begin...” Robert Service



Dave Hyink, Peter Vial, Dave Greenlee and Wes
Stone at York Factory (August 1969).



Dave Greenlee, Dave Hyink, Peter Vial and Wes Stone at the Sommers Base (June 2009).