

ANNUAL REPORT 1995-1996

To the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for the Canadian Heritage Rivers System

I present herewith on behalf of the members of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, the twelfth Annual Report on the Canadian Heritage Rivers System for the fiscal year 1995-96.

Respectfully submitted

Barry N. Diamond
Chairperson
1995-1996 Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, 1995-1996

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THE CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS SYSTEM

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

"Our vision is that Canada's outstanding rivers will be nationally recognized and managed through the support and stewardship of local people and provincial, territorial and federal governments to ensure the long-term conservation of the rivers' natural, cultural and recreational values and integrity."

CHRS Strategic Plan

This past year has been an exciting and dynamic one for the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, highlighted by the release of a new book on the Canadian Heritage Rivers System entitled Voyages: Canada's Heritage Rivers. This book, which took four years to produce, won the 1996 Natural Resources Council of America (NRCA) award for the best new environmental publication in North America. The NRCA award is a tremendous honour for Canada and will help focus international attention on the Canadian Heritage Rivers System as one of the fastest growing heritage conservation programs in the world. Information on how to obtain a copy of this spectacular publication is contained on page 26 of this report.

Much of the attention and energy of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board during 1995-96 was expended on developing a ten-year Strategic Plan for the CHRS program. The catalyst for this plan was the tenth anniversary conference of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System which was held in October 1994 in Peterborough, Ontario. The most important legacy of this conference is a Declaration outlining proposed future directions for the CHRS and river conservation in Canada. The public input raised at this conference was extremely useful to the Board in crafting the Strategic Plan and developing a blueprint for the future. The Strategic Plan was circulated widely and I am pleased to report that public reaction and comment was very favourable. Copies of this document can be obtained from any Board member or the Secretariat. Results of the first year of the Strategic Plan will be reported in next year's annual report.

The Board is also developing a Charter for the program for consideration by Ministers. The purpose of this Charter is to give a tangible public demonstration of the commitment of all senior governments in Canada to participate in the CHRS; to give governments an opportunity to reaffirm their support and commitment to the program; and to acknowledge the future operation of the CHRS through the Strategic Plan.

I would like to thank all members of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board and the staff of the Secretariat for their support. It has been an honour to have served as your Chairperson.

Barry N. Diamond 1995-1996 Chairperson Canadian Heritage Rivers Board



James Raffan, Foreword, Voyages – Canada's Heritage Rivers

STATUS OF THE CHRS



DESIGNATED RIVERS

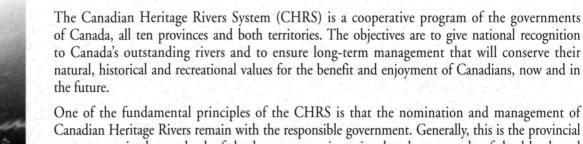
River	Province/Territory (Park¹)	Date of Designation	Length (in km)
French	Ontario (French River P.P.)	Feb. 1986	110
Alsek	Yukon (Kluane N.P.)	Feb. 1986	90
Clearwater	Saskatchewan (Clearwater River P.P.)	June 1986	187
S. Nahanni	Northwest Territories (Nahanni N.P. Reserve)	Jan. 1987	300
Bloodvein ²	Manitoba (Atikaki P.P.)	June 1987	200
Mattawa	Ontario (Mattawa P.P. and Samuel de Champlain P.P.)	Jan. 1988	43
Athabasca	Alberta (Jasper N.P.)	Jan. 1989	168
N. Saskatchewan	Alberta (Banff N.P.)	Jan. 1989	49
Kicking Horse	British Columbia (Yoho N.P.)	Jan. 1989	67
Kazan	Northwest Territories	July 1990	615
Thelon	Northwest Territories	July 1990	545
St. Croix	New Brunswick	Jan. 1991	185
Yukon (The Thirty Mile)	Yukon	Jan. 1991	48
Seal	Manitoba	June 1992	260
Soper ³	Northwest Territories (Katannilik Territorial Park)	June 1992	248
Arctic Red	Northwest Territories	Sept. 1993	450
Grand ³	Ontario	Jan. 1994	627
TOTAL			4192 km

NOMINATED RIVERS

River	Province/Territory (Park¹)	Anticipated Designation Date	Length (in km)
Boundary Waters	Ontario (La Vérendrye/Quetico/Middle Falls P.F	(.s) Sept. 1996	250
Main	Newfoundland and Labrador	Jan. 1997	57
Bay du Nord	Newfoundland and Labrador (Bay du Nord Wild	derness Reserve) Jan. 1997	75
Jacques-Cartier	Quebec (Jacques-Cartier P.P.)	Jan. 1997	128
Bonnet Plume	Yukon	Jan. 1997	350
Bloodvein ²	Ontario (Woodland Caribou P.P.)	Jan. 1997	106
Churchill	Saskatchewan	Jan. 1997	487
Hillsborough	Prince Edward Island	Jan. 1997	45
Missinaibi	Ontario (Missinaibi P.P.)	Jan. 1997	426
Shelburne	Nova Scotia	June 1997	53
Margaree	Nova Scotia	June 1997	120
Upper Restigouche	New Brunswick	Jan. 1998	55
TOTAL			2152 km
TOTAL — NOMINATED	AND DESIGNATED RIVERS	gen to a superior	6344 km

P.P. denotes provincial parks; N.P. denotes national park.
 Bloodvein River has been nominated in two sections, by Manitoba and Ontario.
 Includes mainstem and major tributaries.

THE CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS SYSTEM



Canadian Heritage Rivers remain with the responsible government. Generally, this is the provincial governments in the south, the federal government in national parks or on other federal lands and the federal and territorial governments jointly in the north.

Ministers Responsible for the CHRS (1995-1996)

The Honourable Sheila Copps Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Canadian Heritage Government of Canada

The Canadian Heritage

Rivers System (CHRS) is a

governments of Canada,

territories.

all ten provinces and both

cooperative program of the

The Honourable Ron Irwin Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Government of Canada

The Honourable Sandra Kelly Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Honourable Eleanor Norrie Minister of Natural Resources Government of Nova Scotia

The Honourable Robert Morrissey Minister of Economic Development and Tourism Government of Prince Edward Island

The Honourable Alan Graham Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Government of New Brunswick

The Honourable David Cliche Minister of Environment and Wildlife Government of Quebec

The Honourable Chris Hodgson Minister of Natural Resources Government of Ontario

The Honourable Albert Driedger Minister of Natural Resources Government of Manitoba

The Honourable Lorne Scott Minister of Environment and Resource Management Government of Saskatchewan

The Honourable Ty Lund Minister of Environmental Protection Government of Alberta

The Honourable Moe Sihota Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks Government of British Columbia

The Honourable Mickey Fisher Minister of Renewable Resources Government of the Yukon

The Honourable Don Morris Premier and Minister of Economic Development and Tourism Government of the Northwest Territories

THE BOARD

The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board (the Board) reviews nominations and recommends whether a nominated river meets selection criteria to the federal Minister responsible for Parks Canada and to the provincial/territorial Minister of the nominating government.

The Board consists of one representative each from Parks Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC) and the participating provincial and territorial governments. Each board member, with the exception of the federal INAC member, has one vote.

A Chairperson is elected for each fiscal year from among the Board's members and is responsible for organizing and chairing Board meetings, directing the operation of the Secretariat and promoting public awareness of the CHRS. The 1996-97 Chairperson will be Bruce Duffin, Director, Parks Management with the Alberta Environmental Protection Branch of the Natural Resources Service.

1995-96 Board Members

Barry Diamond, 1995-96 Chairperson (Nova Scotia)

Don Hustins (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Doug Murray (Prince Edward Island)

John Archibald (New Brunswick)

Luc Berthiaume (Quebec)

Norm Richards (Ontario)

Gordon Prouse (Manitoba)

Don MacAulay (Saskatchewan)

Bruce Duffin (Alberta)

Mark Angelo (British Columbia)

Jim McIntyre (Yukon)

Peter Neugebauer (Northwest Territories)

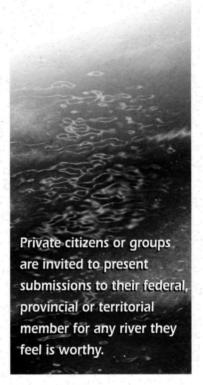
Claude Bugslag (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada)

Mike Porter (Parks Canada)

Secretariat Staff

Secretary: Tim Sookocheff National Manager: Don Gibson

Scientific & Technical Operations: Michael Greco Marketing & Publicity: Maxwell Finkelstein



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Submissions

River nominations may be submitted to the Board only by participating government agencies. Private citizens or groups are, however, invited to present submissions to their federal, provincial or territorial member for any river they feel is worthy.

RIVER NOMINATION PROCESS

Public Consultation

Public consultation normally takes place prior to the nomination. In this initial stage, the public provides input during province-wide or territorial-wide studies of rivers to determine their relative value as potential Canadian Heritage Rivers. Further public input occurs once a short list of rivers is developed. Such consultation assists government officials in selecting preferred river candidates in their jurisdiction.

Selection

The responsible government decides on a specific river to nominate based on the river's natural, cultural and recreational values and on the level of public support for the nomination. Selection usually involves an analysis of the number and complexity of conflicting land uses and the costs that effective management of the river corridor would entail.

Nomination

Once the decision has been made to nominate a river to the CHRS, the nominating government, working cooperatively with other groups and agencies concerned with or responsible for the future of the river, prepares and submits a nomination document to the Board. The document contains all information necessary to show that the river is of outstanding Canadian value, as defined by the CHRS guidelines, and that sufficient measures will be put in place to ensure that all those values will be maintained. The Board then reviews the nomination and makes its recommendation to the federal Minister responsible for Parks Canada and the appropriate Minister(s) of the nominating government.



RIVER DESIGNATION PROCESS

Submission of Management Plan

The river designation process begins when the Board member representing the nominating government submits a management plan to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. The management plan sets out the policies and practices to be followed by the responsible agencies to ensure that the river's development, management and use are consistent with CHRS objectives and Board guidelines. Although extensions may be granted when necessary, the plan is normally tabled within three years of the Board's acceptance of the river nomination. This ensures that an effective plan for the river management area is put in place.

Designation

Once a management plan has been lodged and discussed by the Board, the Chairperson advises the federal Minister responsible for Parks Canada and the Minister(s) responsible for the nominating government agencies that the requirements for designation have been met. The Ministers will then formally designate the river by unveiling a plaque at a key location on the river and by signing a ceremonial text to be included in the official CHRS registry book.

Designation of a river to the CHRS ensures that the river will be managed in a way that will conserve the outstanding heritage resources for which the river was nominated and that its recreational potential will be realized. Management responsibility remains entirely with the federal, provincial or territorial government agency with jurisdiction over the river.



RIVER NOMINATIONS AND DESIGNATIONS IN 1995-96

Nominations and Designations

There were no new nominations or designations during the 1995-96 year. However, several studies and plans were initiated which will lead to future additions to the System over the next few years.

OVERLOOKING THE WATERSHEDS: MONITORING CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS IN 1995-96

The official designation of a river as a Canadian Heritage River brings with it the responsibility, on the part of governing agencies, to monitor their respective rivers and to report conditions to the Board annually by filling-in the Annual Report Checklist supplied by the Secretariat.

As of March 31, 1996, the required water quality parameters and schedules had been submitted to the Board for all designated rivers. Annual Report Checklists for most designated rivers were completed and returned to the Secretariat.

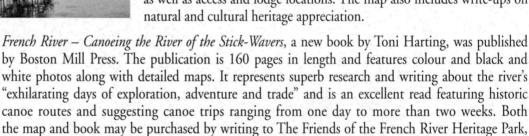
Input from the submissions is used by the Secretariat to advise the Board on the current status of all rivers in the System and to identify areas of concern or those in need of action. The information also assists the Board in identifying solutions to new problems as they arise – solutions that may prove very useful to other members facing similar situations in their own jurisdictions.

Under the new strategic plan for the CHRS, a new approach to monitoring is being sought which will rely much more heavily on voluntary participation and public involvement. Parks Canada's financial support for monitoring heritage rivers has been affected by the federal government's downsizing agenda and other means of resourcing the monitoring function are now under examination.

The following is a synopsis of the monitoring information, presented in the order in which the rivers were officially designated as Canadian Heritage Rivers.

FRENCH RIVER French River Provincial Park, Ontario

During the past year, park operations continued with seasonal and summer staff travelling the river to work with cottagers and campers, along with lodge operators and guests, to manage this important resource. 1995-96 marked the sixth year of activity for The Friends of the French River Heritage Park whose projects included the placement of a bronze interpretive plaque at Recollet Falls commemorating historic travel. The Friends, in cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, also updated and reprinted the park map. The revised version is a fold-out colour map detailing the entire 110km length of the park featuring topographic and river channel details, campsites and portages, as well as access and lodge locations. The map also includes write-ups on natural and cultural heritage appreciation.





French River (French River Provincial Park, Ont.)

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P.O. Box 142, Copper Cliff, Ontario P0M 1N0.

ALSEK RIVER Kluane National Park, Yukon

The past year saw the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Yukon Conservation Society and Friends of the Aishihik work to raise awareness of the effects of extreme drawdown of the Aishihik Lake reservoir. One of the hydro developments in the Yukon, the Aishihik Dam, was developed in the early 1970s on a headwaters tributary of the Alsek River. A three-year drought in the Aishihik watershed has lead to unprecedented drawdown and considerable local concern about negative ecological effects on Aishihik Lake.

While the effects of the Aishihik Lake reservoir and its management have yet to be connected to the Alsek River, there has been some concern that releases from the system have impacted, or could impact, the Dezadeash wetlands in Kluane National Park.



Alsek River (Kluane National Park

A review of the Kluane National Park Management Plan began this past year. A scoping document was approved and a first newsletter was prepared. The Cooperative Management Board, established under the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Agreement, is to carry out the plan review process. Two of the four members of this Board, appointed by the Minister of Canadian Heritage, were nominated by the First Nations. A review of the Management Plan will provide an opportunity to review the previous planning assumptions about the Alsek River and solicit public input on changes to river use since 1989. The largest single change has been the increase in river-rafting activity and aircraft access. This review also constitutes the first major public exercise involving the Kluane National Park Management Board. It provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the cooperative management of the Alsek watershed with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

Two recent environmental reports detailed the potential effects of increased access to the Alsek River and surrounding area. The first, entitled A Cumulative Effects Assessment of Proposed Projects in Kluane National Park Reserve, Yukon Territory by George Hegmann of the University of Calgary, indicates that increased access to the river, such as river-rafting and aircraft access, could potentially jeopardize the grizzly bear population along the river. Another report, the Initial Environmental Evaluation of The Alsek Pass Project by Parks Canada and the Government of the Yukon, similarly concludes that the development of the proposed Alsek Pass and day-use area will adversely affect the grizzly bear population. It is anticipated that the final screening report will recommend that the Alsek Pass project not proceed. The results of these research projects can only improve the quality of planning decisions affecting the ecological and cultural integrity of the Alsek River corridor.

A water quality study, conducted in partnership with Inland Waters and INAC Water Survey, continued during the past year. Data collection and sample analysis were carried out. However, a complete analysis of the data has yet to be completed. An initial review of the data indicated that there were no immediate water quality concerns.

Over the past year, a proposal was developed for an *Alsek River Research Project* containing both natural and social science components. It was proposed that the natural science component systematically document, analyze and evaluate the impacts associated with recreational use of the Alsek River and provide a complete corridor-wide vegetation evaluation in terms of bear-human risk assessment. The social science component is to identify and characterize visitor expectation for the Alsek River corridor. Information collection took place during the river-rafting season and included a combination of on-site/mail-back visitor surveys and a literature review.

Greater participation by Champagne and Aishihik people in the management of the Alsek has resulted in

increased awareness of the river's cultural significance.

The extent of spruce die-off related to spruce bark beetle became evident to Forestry Canada, Yukon Forest Service officials and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. Discussions on salvage logging and other control measures have been ongoing and Parks Canada is represented on an advisory committee set up to explore options for forest management in the affected area.

The spruce bark beetle is a natural agent of forest succession in mountain and boreal forests. Attempts to manage and control this natural process outside the National Park could cause significant land use changes. Road access for logging or firewood salvage could lead to wildlife habitat fragmentation, increased vehicle access and stream damage within the Alsek watershed. The primary focus of the outbreak is immediately adjacent to the park boundary along the Dezadeash River.

The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the government of British Columbia signed an agreement for the cooperative management of Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park. The agreement is an interim measure until Champagne and Aishihik achieve a treaty through British Columbia's claims process. It formalizes the role of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations in the management of the entire Alsek River within Canada. Greater participation by Champagne and Aishihik people in the management of the Alsek has already resulted in increased awareness of the river's cultural significance. Revitalized contact between interior (Yukon) and coastal (Alaska) natives has resulted in new opportunities to better understand the enduring significance of the coastal trade routes. Currently, the Alsek is the only Canadian Heritage River whose heritage river nomination includes no acknowledged cultural values. Parks Canada and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations are working to revise the document to recognize and include these values.

SOUTH NAHANNI RIVER Nahanni National Park Reserve, Northwest Territories

The Nahanni's water quality continued to be closely monitored in the Nahanni National Park Reserve. Monitoring efforts focused on characterizing baseline conditions in the South Nahanni watershed, assessing residual impacts from the closed mine at Tungsten and conducting bio-accumulation research. Changes in water quality would have a major impact on the ecological integrity of the South Nahanni watershed and on its wilderness and recreational values.

A comprehensive Ecological Integrity Monitoring program was implemented in all of the National Parks in the Northwest Territories. This standardization method monitors the following eight factors: biodiversity, landscape diversity, weather, cultural resources, human use, water quality, forest insects and disease, along with plant phenology. Many of these factors monitor the integrity of the attributes for which the river was designated under the CHRS.

Nahanni National Park Reserve staff designed and implemented a River Reservation System as a result of feedback from both private river travellers and outfitting companies. Over the past three years, visitation has increased 7% to 10% annually resulting in overcrowding. Consultations with various river users provided the input for the development of a unique "unit system" that builds on the principle of equal access for private and commercial trips and takes into account the differences between the sizes of these two sets of users. A user-pay fee was implemented in conjunction with the reservation system. The reservation system has been designed to redistribute park use more evenly over the visitor season. This initiative will allow for growth in the number of users of the river while still maintaining a quality wilderness experience.

Over the past few years there has been an increase in the number of forest fires in the region. The Deh Cho Region has experienced several summers with extremely high fire weather indices and higher than normal fire frequencies. Nahanni National Park has experienced nineteen fires in the last two years which is well above the norm. During 1995-96, smoke conditions resulted in a 50% decrease in day visits to Virginia Falls.

CLEARWATER RIVER Clearwater River Provincial Park, Saskatchewan

1995 will be remembered as a year for "big fires" that burnt in the boreal forest of northern Saskatchewan. In total, 1.6 million hectares of forest were affected and Clearwater River Provincial Park was not spared. However, within the park, natural processes are being allowed to proceed. The province did not introduce any new accesses to the river, there was a deliberate effort to not request "cat guards" (Caterpillar tractors) on fire lines within the park, nor were plans made to salvage the fire-killed trees. The fire, while causing Clearwater Raft Tours to cancel two trips, did not create any long-term disturbances for recreational users of the river.

A few studies have been conducted over the past year. The province, with the assistance of Dr. David Fennell from the University of Regina, initiated a study on the recreational capacity of the river. A final report is planned for Spring 1997. The Province of Saskatchewan continued with the Water Quality Monitoring Program. The results for 1995 are almost identical to those from 1992 and 1994, indicating that there are no immediate water quality concerns for the Clearwater River.



Whitemud Falls, Clearwater River (Clearwater Provincial Park)

BLOODVEIN RIVER Manitoba

Public interest in the Bloodvein River continued to increase over the past year with reports of increased levels of canoeing on the river. Manitoba's Department of Natural Resources also experienced an increased level of interest from outfitters wishing to establish operations on the Bloodvein.

During 1995-96, the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources conducted a system-wide review of present park classifications and land use management policies. This initiative included increased legislative protection for lands designated as Wilderness parks. Confirmation of the present Wilderness classification for Atikaki Provincial Park, through which the Bloodvein River flows, would enhance Manitoba's ability to protect the river's nationally significant natural, wilderness recreation and cultural values.

MATTAWA RIVER Mattawa River & Samuel de Champlain Provincial Parks, Ontario



Re-enactment of fur trade brigade on the Mattawa River (Mattawa and Samuel de Champlain provincial parks, Ont.)

Located between North Bay and the town of Mattawa on the Trans Canada Highway 17, these two Provincial Parks, the Mattawa and Samuel de Champlain, are increasingly becoming a source of pride to the community and seasonal residents of the region.

Several groups were involved in the maintenance of the scenic and recreational values of the river. As with every year, militia from the Petawawa Armed Forces Base and Friends of the Mattawa River Park conducted separate river clean-up trips. The annual Friends' "Trash Bash" was a day-long outing on the entire river aimed at cleaning up garbage. This past year was the first year that the Talon Lake Cottage Association maintained portages and campsites on Talon Lake and the next upstream lake in the system. In addition, a newly formed group

called the Mattawa and Area Forestry Committee, inventoried a 20km portion of the park. A four-person crew laid-out a new day-use trail along the river's north shore between Talon Chutes and Samuel de Champlain Park. For the second year in a row, Samuel de Champlain Park hosted a four-week environmental study credit program for students from the Nipissing Board of Education.

The superintendent of Samuel de Champlain Park approached the Ontario Ministry of Transportation requesting that the Park take over the management of the Pimisi Bay day-use picnic site on the Trans Canada Highway between North Bay and Mattawa. This site provides direct access to the river and the several natural, historic and scenic features of the Mattawa River Provincial Park. If the request is approved, the site would be added to the Park.

1995-96 marks the second summer of Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park's "Voyageur Adventure Tour." The tour offers five-hour trips on a 10km section of the river, five days a week. Participants travel in three replica North Canoes and are led by Voyageur-costumed guides. The trip features lore of the river and engages participants in traditional work and customs from the fur trade era.

ATHABASCA RIVER Jasper National Park, Alberta

The past year has been a busy one on the Athabasca. There were several on-going monitoring and research projects and numerous improvements made to visitor facilities and services. All of these activities directly affect the Athabasca River.

A number of habitat assessment studies were continued in 1995. A cooperative, multi-agency study involved the banding and study of harlequin ducks on breeding streams and on coastal habitat. The study will prove useful in defining critical year-round habitat and appropriate ecosystem protection efforts. Jasper staff also completed a study into the effects of in-stream disturbances (primarily whitewater rafting) on harlequin ducks. Preliminary data support the theory that rafting and similar disturbances can have significant negative impact on harlequin ducks by displacing them from their preferred habitat. Finally, ongoing research on neotropical songbirds aims to evaluate the potential for using two innovative research methods to establish breeding origins of migratory songbirds in Canada. These studies should have a positive impact on river values. The information will enhance bio-diversity efforts to protect sensitive bird species and ensure that the opportunity to appreciate a variety of birds will continue to be part of the river experience.

The past year has seen improvements or plans made to improve numerous visitor services. Athabasca Falls, Maligne Canyon and Columbia Icefields day-use and hiking areas have all undergone or are scheduled for trail renovations. The Columbia Icefields facilities were torn down and replaced with one facility housing all services including a chalet, visitor centre, gas station and bus terminal. Jointly developed by Parks Canada and Brewster Transport, the project aimed to replace old facilities with a more environmentally-friendly centre which could accommodate the growing number of tourists. The central theme of the interpretive centre located within the new facility is the fundamental importance of fresh water - ecologically, culturally and economically. A display highlighting the CHRS, its program goals and the heritage values of the three designated rivers within the four Mountain Parks is included. The new exhibit should result in a positive impact on the visitor experience and increased awareness of the CHRS, river heritage and water conservation issues.

1995-96 also saw work continue on an Athabasca River Roadside Touring Guide set for release in the summer of 1996. This high-quality guide identifies fifteen stopping points along the highway, interpreting each stop with highlights of the river's history, ecology and recreational uses. Colourful blue and gold signs emblazoned with the CHRS logo identify the stops along the road. Plans are to have the guide available in English, French and German. In addition to the Roadside Touring Guide, pedestrian-access kiosks were installed in busy walking areas in the town of Jasper. One of these kiosks is completely devoted to the CHRS, water conservation and the Athabasca River, as well as providing information on river ecology and the heritage value of rivers across Canada. Knowledge of the importance of river conservation and heritage can only promote understanding which, in turn, encourages appreciation and respect.

As of 1995, a zero possession limit will be in effect for Bull Trout, a threatened species in Alberta. A formal bait ban in all district park waters was instituted in 1996. A ban on the use of lead sinkers in federal waters will come into effect in September 1996. Efforts to restore natural fish populations and movement between Talbot Lake and the Athabasca River continued this past year. This initiative

involved the restoration of the original channel between the river and the lake; commemorative interpretation about changing cultural uses of the lake; designation as an aquatic viewing area; and interpretation of the restoration project itself. The new fish management strategy encourages an understanding of and appreciation for the role of fish in the ecosystem and a move away from highly consumptive fishing practices. Open seasons for fishing will respect spawning fish and possession limits for native species have been reduced from five to two.

Jasper's rivers continued to be increasingly popular with visitors. For example, 40 000 visitors participated in commercial rafting within Jasper in 1995. This constitutes a visitor increase of 16% over the last year. Concern over growing conflicts between users, user groups and the natural/cultural resources prompted the park to conduct a study of

recreational use in the park. Simon Fraser University's comprehensive study was completed in 1995. The study considers the trade-off between visitor impacts and visitor experience and identifies real ecological and social constraints to visitor use. Put together, it formulates the basis of a plan which encourages a sustainable high quality visitor experience while ensuring long-term integrity of the park's river ecosystem. This approach will, however, require the park to take a much more active role in river and visitor management. It recommends a number of changes to current activities. This would have some impact on businesses and park users who have historically operated the park's rivers. Park managers are committed to developing and implementing a river-use strategy by 1997.



The new pedestrian-access CHRS kiosk in the town of Jasper (Jasper National Park)

Another monitoring project, the River Basins Study, investigated the impact of the town of Jasper on phosphorous loads in the Athabasca River. The study showed that Jasper is the most significant municipal contributor to phosphorous loads in the river. Algae growth immediately downstream of Jasper is sixteen times that found upstream and algae diminishes to near upstream levels approximately 12km downstream of the town. Enhanced algae growth produces higher densities of invertebrates, larger individual insects and larger fish. Excessive nutrient enrichment can substantially degrade water. In the long-term, nutrient enrichment can be cumulative, extending downstream from the point of source. The town of Jasper and Parks Canada are still negotiating who will pay what share of the cost to replace the current sewage treatment facility (and to what level of treatment). Federal Water Quality Guidelines for Recreational Waters are still not being exceeded; however, there is now visible scum and algae growth immediately downstream of the facility – a popular recreational section of the river. Until this issue is resolved, the impact on the river values and downstream users is negative.

A new coal mine has been proposed for an area adjacent to the east boundary of the park in the Eastern Slopes Region of Alberta. The current proposal could impact on a number of headwater streams on the McLeod River, a tributary of the Athabasca. Park staff have raised concerns about the possible impacts the mine will have on large carnivores (in particular, grizzly bears) and harlequin ducks. Studies are ongoing and the proposal is being reviewed under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is the lead agency responsible for reviewing the assessment.

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN Banff National Park, Alberta

Monitoring the wilderness values of the North Saskatchewan continued to be a priority in 1995-96. A new day-use site along the river, located at an old highway camp at Coleman Mountain, did not create additional visitor impacts on the river environment. In general, visitor use on the river remained low but concerns remain over the proximity of the Columbia Icefields' new National Parks Visitor Centre to the river. Over the past year, 450 000 people visited the Centre and the re-development is near completion. Consequently, highway vehicle travel and visitor use substantially increased at this site. Because the North Saskatchewan River is less than 5km from both the Icefields Parkway and the David Thompson Highway, care needs to be taken to monitor potential impacts spinning-off from this development which could have adverse affect on the river's values.

In 1995-96, the water quality of the North Saskatchewan remained high, however, budgetary constraints mean that the continuation of water sampling is in jeopardy. Agencies such as Environment Canada have indicated that they are unable to continue the funding of monitoring projects without partnership support. Consequently, concern exists over the continued ability to monitor water quality on a regular basis. These financial impacts mean that the capability of ensuring that this high water quality is maintained is at risk.

KICKING HORSE RIVER Yoho National Park, British Columbia

Over the past year, a number of visitor facility and service improvements were initiated. The Kicking Horse's CHRS designation plaque was moved to the Yoho Park entrance at the British Columbia/Alberta boundary. Moving the plaque to this location increased visitor exposure to CHRS and Kicking Horse River information. Also, in order to improve the aesthetic value of a tributary to the Kicking Horse, a number of old concrete culverts were removed from Boulder Creek at the old TransCanada Highway crossing. In addition, large boulders were placed along the river shoreline at Chancellor Park Campground to protect against flooding. Improvements to and expansion of the Cathedral Mountain Chalets resulted in the addition of several new cabins, improvement of the sewage facilities and the clean-up of an old gas station site. Recreational value was enhanced and the potential for damaging aquatic life and ecosystems has been reduced. However, there may be some increase in land visitors to the area, thereby increasing the risk of terrestrial impacts.



Two cyclists admiring this glacier-fed mountain river – the Kicking Horse (Yoho National Park)

A proposal made for a commercial rafting tour on the river from Amiskwi River to Chancellor Park Campground is currently on hold pending research on the potential impacts on wildlife, specifically harlequin ducks and other sensitive species, such as wolves, which use the habitat adjacent to the river.

The construction of a new highway access to Emerald Lake Road resulted in the destruction of fish habitat in a tributary channel of the river. There was also a discovery of a contaminated site in the same area. The contaminated site was cleaned up and fish habitat reconstruction will be completed by September 1996.

Continued algae growth downriver from the Field Hill sewage treatment plant sparked some concern. While there appear to be no immediate impacts on fish or other aquatic life, the situation continues to be monitored.

There has been regular sampling from the Kicking Horse River by Inland Waters over the past year. Parks Canada has also conducted coliform testing in the river and its tributaries. Overall, the water quality of the Kicking Horse River is very good.



KAZAN RIVER Northwest Territories

Over the past few years, Parks Canada and the community of Qamanittuaq (Baker Lake) have been hard at work carrying out anthropological and archeological studies along the lower Kazan. In July 1995, the completed study provided the basis for a report presented to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. All of the hard work paid off with the Board recommending that the sites at Piqqiq and Itirngnik be designated National Historic Sites. Federal government approval was forthcoming and the sites are now officially recognized as National Historic Sites. A plaque was erected at Kazan Falls during the summer of 1996 and a museum or information centre is planned for the community of Qamanittuaq (Baker Lake).

On the recreational front, efforts to better accommodate visitors to the Kazan River are continuing. Small campgrounds and visitor facilities are being developed at the mouth of the Kazan River and at Kazan Falls, in conjunction with the proposed Piqqiq plaque site.

THELON RIVER Northwest Territories

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), ratified in 1993, requires the preparation of a management plan for the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary by 1998. Following the process laid out in the NLCA, the Akiliniq Planning Committee (APC), based in Qamanittuaq (Baker Lake), was established in 1994 to guide the development of the Plan for the eastern section of the Sanctuary. The APC comprises equal numbers of government and Inuit representatives. The Nunavut Implementation Agreement gave the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) Department of Renewable Resources the responsibility and funding to coordinate the planning process. Because the Nunavut boundary divides the Sanctuary, a parallel body, the Thelon Dezzeth Planning Committee, was formed to plan for the future of the western portion.



An Inuksuk found along the banks of the Thelon River (NWT)

The Federal Government

officially recognized sites

at Piqqiq and Itirngnik

along the Kazan as as

National Historic Sites.

Consultation, which took place in the communities of Qamanittuaq and Lutselk'e, determined a draft statement of the vision and goals for the Sanctuary. The vision for the Sanctuary is to manage and protect the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary so that its undisturbed character and cultural values are preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. The goals are to protect and maintain the Sanctuary as a viable natural system; to protect the spiritual and cultural values of the Sanctuary; and to allow opportunities for use and enjoyment that are consistent with the protection and maintenance of the natural and cultural values of the Sanctuary. In late November 1995, the community of Lutselk'e decided to undertake planning for the Thelon on their own as a component of the land use research needed for treaty entitlement negotiations.

Because the Nunavut boundary cuts through the Sanctuary, the Dene will play an integral role in the future management of the Sanctuary. Extensive consultation has been undertaken at the community, regional and territorial/national levels. Methods have included newsletters, videos, posters, slide shows, community meetings, small group meetings and one-on-one interviews. The draft management plan will be released for comment in the summer of 1996 in document, newsletter and video formats. Finalization of the plan is scheduled for February 1997.

In 1991, Indian and Northern Affairs and Environment Canada entered into a six-year program called *Action on Water* as part of the Green Plan's *Arctic Environmental Strategy* initiative. Monitoring of the Thelon River's water quality and quantity was included in this program. While some good baseline information has been collected, the monitoring stations on the Thelon will be eliminated for budgetary reasons, making it increasingly important to build upon partnerships established between the GNWT Department of Renewable Resources and the federal Department of Canadian Heritage. Follow-up testing will be essential within five to ten years in order to verify the condition of these northern waters.

Camping facilities were completed in the summer of 1995 in Baker Lake (Qamanittuaq) to facilitate river travel and to encourage more overnight stays in the community.

1995 saw the publication of a new book on the Thelon River. *Thelon: A River Sanctuary* is by David Pelly and is available through the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association. Pelly, a veteran Arctic traveller, states that the book "is not a story about my travels on the Thelon, rather it is a story about the river."

The region northwest of the Thelon continues to receive considerable national and international attention because of its potential for diamond mining. An environmental review was completed and conditional approval will be recommended to the federal government.

ST. CROIX RIVER New Brunswick

In 1995, activities along the St. Croix involved all of the theme areas from the St. Croix Waterway management plan. One of the most exciting events was an unplanned one – the discovery of a new dragonfly species on a tributary of the St. Croix. This new species, of the *Neurocordulia* genus, is the first new dragonfly found in Canada since 1918. The find has sparked international interest in further entomological studies on the St. Croix River system.

The St. Croix's heritage identity received wide recognition during the year. When French settlers established the first capital of L'Acadie on an island in the St. Croix River nearly 400 years ago, they changed the course of North American history. Today this island is an international historic site shared by Canada and the United States and, in 1995, the parks services of both countries started planning for its expanded interpretation. The U.S. National Parks Services began the development of a new site management plan and Parks Canada designed an outdoor

interpretation centre, both of which will be completed in 1996. Planning for the 400th anniversary celebrations in 2004 was launched with a workshop sponsored by the St. Croix International Waterway Commission that involved local, Acadian and government interests.

The first Canadian Heritage River System plaque along saltwater was unveiled on the waterfront of the Town of St. Andrews, where 7m tides rise and fall twice daily at the mouth of the St. Croix River. In October this site was visited by Canada's Governor General, The Right Honourable Romeo LeBlanc, and served as a backdrop for his public address on the importance of heritage.



David Walker (left), New Brunswick Co-Chair of the St. Croix International Waterway Commission, shows the new Canadian Heritage Rivers plaque to the Governor General, The Right Honourable Romeo LeBlanc, in St. Andrews, NB, in October 1995

In August of 1995, the **Province of New Brunswick** adopted a shoreland zoning regulation for over 160 km of St. Croix waterfront that sets a Canadian precedent for resource management.

During 1995, the Waterway Commission distributed nearly 5 000 copies of a new colour brochure and map on the St. Croix's natural and human heritage. Even wider recognition was gained through a feature article on the river's backcountry canoeing heritage which appeared in more than 250 newspapers throughout the United States and Canada in the winter of 1995-96.

At home, significant progress was made to protect the St. Croix's natural heritage resources. In August 1995, the Province of New Brunswick adopted a shoreland zoning regulation for over 160km of St. Croix waterfront that sets a Canadian precedent for resource management and ensures that future development will respect the river system's natural character. Maine, which has similar shoreland zoning, acquired and protected additional shorefront within a proposed international Conservation Area on the upper St. Croix.

New Brunswick also initiated a province-wide water classification program that will eventually set consistent water quality standards with Maine for the St. Croix boundary waters. The International Joint Commission neared completion of a three-year computer modelling study on the upper watershed which involved more than thirty user groups and many government agencies in exploring future multiple-use water management options. In the lower watershed, for the St. Croix estuary and nearby coastal areas, planning and governmental interests compiled an integrated resource inventory to assist in regional planning on environmental and development issues.

Water testing on the lakes by volunteers, and on esturial waters and at waste treatment plants by the St. Croix Estuary Project, showed that the St. Croix's water quality in 1995 was good and even improving, although additional work is needed before some tidal areas can be opened to public clam digging. A survey of shorefront septic systems was completed by the provincial health department in order to guide improvements that will address this issue.

Volunteers played an important role in fisheries management and in recreation planning during the year. Local fishing and outdoor groups joined forces with government agencies from Canada and the U.S. to complete a three-year fisheries research program of St. Croix river and lakes. In 1995 this included angler surveys, river habitat mapping and the release of over 38 000 young Atlantic salmon into prime river areas to rebuild an historic fish run. These same interests took part in a workshop in April to identify future fisheries development and management priorities for the St. Croix system.

The number of natural and cultural heritage tourism businesses in the area grew noticeably during the year, encouraged by the focus of a recent business opportunity study, a regional sustainable development forum and emerging heritage and tourism development organizations. These businesses are helping to generate new employment in keeping with the St. Croix's identity and resources.

YUKON RIVER The Thirty Mile Section, Yukon

The past year saw the Yukon River's recreational values increase due, in part, to an improvement in public knowledge of First Nations' history and traditions. Interpretive panels about the river, developed in cooperation with the Ta'an Kwach'an First Nation, were installed at the Lake Laberge campground. These panels inform river users and the general community about the natural and cultural values associated with the river, along with the recreational opportunities it offers.

In 1995, a Yukon River First Nation Heritage Symposium was organized by the Tron'dek Hwech'in First Nation. The purpose of the symposium, which was held in Dawson, was to consider the importance of the Yukon River to First Nation heritage. Six Yukon First Nations and the Council for Yukon First Nations participated by sending Elders and administrators to Dawson for the gathering. The symposium highlighted the vital importance of a healthy environment in the watershed for the perpetuation of distinct cultural identity.

SEAL RIVER Manitoba

1995-96 saw rafting outfitters on the Seal River, including the Tadoule Lake-based Nu-cho Expeditions, looking forward to a new operating season. Canoeing visitation continued and new pick-up facilities were developed at the Seal estuary by the ferry service. To be up-and-running in 1996, these new facilities will operate from Churchill to the river mouth across Hudson Bay. Also in 1996, an initiative to gauge the feasibility of recreational hiking on northern eskers was planned for an area north and west of the Seal River. Positive results from this undertaking may result in an increased recreational interest in the spectacularly beautiful eskers associated with the Seal Heritage River corridor.



At the headwaters of the Seal River - a smoke tent used for smoking caribou at the Village of Tadoule Lake (NWT)

SOPER RIVER Katannilik Territorial Park, Northwest Territories

The Tunguvik Federation of Nunavut (TFN) Land Claim Settlement of July 1993 required that a management plan for the Soper be prepared by July 1998. This may simply entail updating existing plans for the river.

As with the previous year, the Soper River experienced yet another increase in the number of visitors to the area. The Soper's status as a Canadian Heritage River continued to be highlighted by tour guides and operators and is believed to be contributing to the increased tourism demand. The Hunters and Trappers Association of Kimmirut (Lake Harbour) has figured prominently in this activity as a licensed outfitter, arranging trips and guide services for anyone interested in travelling the Soper or visiting and hiking the area. In addition, a Soper River guide for canoeists and rafters was published in 1995. It is a companion piece to the trail guide prepared a year earlier. The latter is now available in English, Inuktitut, French and German.

The small campground developed at the old RCMP site across the narrow inlet from Kimmirut (Lake Harbour) continues to serve as a site for interpretive signs which are used to inform visitors of the role played by police in Arctic communities. The Kimmirut (Lake Harbour) Heritage Project also includes the restoration and interpretation of the old church, the Hudson Bay Company buildings and Soper House.

ARCTIC RED RIVER Northwest Territories

Over the past year, the community of Tsiigehtchic (Arctic Red River) continued to advance the river's mandate as a Canadian Heritage River. The community launched a number of initiatives identified in the management plan lodged with the Board in September 1993. The river has received much more publicity than prior to its Heritage River designation. The Inuvik Visitor Centre has a large panel devoted to the Arctic Red River as a Canadian Heritage River. The national native newspaper, Windspeaker, also published a full-page article about the heritage river designation process. The release of the book Voyages – Canada's Heritage Rivers, including the chapter on the Arctic Red, sparked the interest of a film company who, over the past year, filmed footage during winter, breakup and summer. The Heritage River status of the river is now recognized in the Alaska Highway traveller's "bible", the Milepost.

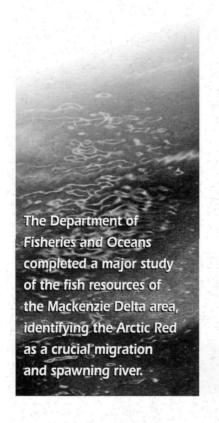
In addition, there were great advancements made regarding the understanding and management of the river's cultural and natural resources. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans completed a major study of the fish resources of the Mackenzie Delta area, identifying the Arctic Red as a crucial migration and spawning river.

The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI), with the assistance of other agencies, completed a 300-page history of the Gwich'in including an exhaustive history of the use of the Arctic Red River watershed. The GSCI also conducted archeological surveys along the river and produced a video depicting life on the river in the earlier part of this century. The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board began a forestry management plan, including a detailed forestry inventory of the watershed. The Yukon Wildlands Project, part of the Yellowstone to Yukon project, mapped vegetation in the headwater area of the river. The Peel River Watershed Advisory Committee utilized the Heritage River Management Plan when it made its recommendations to government concerning Special Management Areas in the Arctic Red River's watershed. All of this research will assist the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board develop its future Land Use Plan for the river's watershed and will be used in implementing the Heritage River Management Plan.

GRAND RIVER Ontario

The first anniversary of the designation of the Grand River and its major tributaries, the Nith, Conestogo, Speed and Eramosa rivers, was celebrated in "grand style" with a *Grand Concert and Celebration* held on September 30, 1995. This celebration was combined with the Ontario launch of the book *Voyages – Canada's Heritage Rivers*. Attended by over 200 people, the day commenced with a number of heritage displays and activities for the whole family at Mill Race Park, Cambridge, Ontario.

During 1995-96, other celebrations recognizing the status of the Grand River were held in conjunction with separate events. *Brantford Riverfest '95* erected the first community plaque commemorating the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River at a kick-off ceremony on April 21, 1995. The theme for the event was *Catch the Spirit* which encouraged community awareness of the importance of the Grand River as a focus for their community.





Waterfront Park in Cambridge along the banks of the Grand River (Ont.)

The Village of Elora honoured its Grand River heritage at the month-long *In Love With Elora* festival. Highlights included a photo contest, a CHRS display featuring the Grand River and an art show featuring the work of A.J. Casson who "discovered" the Village in 1927. In Casson's own words, he "fell in love with Elora at first sight." Casson, who's painting "Mill at Elora" graces the front cover of *The Grand Strategy* (1994), immortalized Elora's historic stone structures and surroundings.

In 1995, Ruthven Park, a 150-year-old Greek Revival mansion, once owned by the Thompson family, attained status as a National Historic Site. The mansion is located south of Caledonia beside the Grand River. Built by David Thompson, who supported the Grand River Navigation Company's plan to make the river navigable from Lake Erie to Brantford, the site is maintained by the Lower Grand River Land Trust Inc.

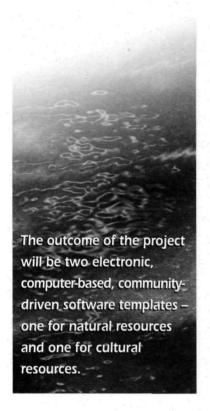
The Waterloo Regional Official Policies Plan (ROPP), adopted by Regional Council in May 1995, strongly supports the CHR designation of the Grand River. Policies encourage landowners to conserve the natural and cultural heritage features and ecological functions of their properties and promote the enhancement of recreational opportunities and maintenance of the character of the Grand River corridor in the design and development of new infrastructure. Area municipalities are encouraged to adopt similar policies.

In 1995, over 300 activities – carried out by individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, agencies and municipalities to support the implementation of the management plan – were submitted for the first annual Registry of Accomplishments and Commitments. Activities included renovating historic sites; recognizing the heritage of the watershed in poetry, song and art; educating watershed residents and visitors; hosting events which highlight heritage and recreation; promoting tourism activities; and undertaking "hands on" projects such as river clean-ups, stream rehabilitation and planting trees.

The Grand Strategy is indeed a living, dynamic process. In 1995-96, its scope was broadened in order for partners to collectively address pressing resource issues in the watershed. The challenge is to ensure that the resources are managed in such a way that economic growth is accommodated and that economic growth occurs in such a way that resources are sustained. To meet this challenge, a revised vision was built with active participation from watershed stakeholders. A number of working groups have been set up to identify issues, challenges and opportunities; recognize current commitments and activities and their effectiveness; and set priorities for action, investigation and partnering. Working groups have been set up to investigate water quality; hydrology and ground water; natural heritage and forestry; rural land management; fisheries management; heritage, recreation and tourism; and urban growth and development. The Coordinating Committee has expanded its expertise and is responsible for coordinating and connecting the activities of the working groups in order to produce an integrated approach to resource management.



MONITORING METHODOLOGIES



Monitoring projects identified in the 1994-95 annual report continue to be developed. These projects include the *Teacher's Manual for Vegetation Assessment* and the *CHRS Mapping Projects*. In addition, the *Watershed Report Card "Silver Level"* manual was initiated, but due to drastic funding cuts at all levels of government, it was only partially completed by year end. However, with modest funding support from the CHRS, a serious effort will be made to complete this manual during the 1996-97 fiscal year.

The Grand River Watershed pilot monitoring project, developed by the Copper Trust Foundation and the University of Waterloo under the auspices of Environment Canada's Environmental Innovation Program (EIF), is nearing completion. The outcome of the project will be two electronic, computer-based, community-driven software templates – one for natural resources and one for cultural resources. These templates will allow schools, in partnership with government and industry, to build their own data bases for *all* the resources within the watershed, both present and past. Partnerships are now being sought with major industries, regional governments, the SchoolNet program of Industry Canada and several major institutions in the United States to develop and test the pilot software. The aim is to make all communities within the watersheds of Canada's major rivers completely independent in developing their own database sets for natural and cultural resources for a number of uses. The principle uses of the database sets include historical research and land-use planning with environmental protection and Canadian cultural linkages as the central themes.

STUDIES, PLANS AND RESEARCH

In identifying rivers for inclusion in the CHRS, participating government agencies may receive funding and technical assistance from Parks Canada to assist in various studies. Policy, scientific and technical advice on nominations, management plans and river monitoring projects is provided by the Board Secretariat. All Board members continue to pursue new river nominations and designations.

System Studies

These comparative studies of rivers in a province or territory are intended to identify those rivers with the greatest potential for further study as possible Canadian Heritage Rivers. They include general assessments of the values of each river in terms of the CHRS guidelines. System studies are extremely important in allowing governments to establish priorities and make long-term plans for future river studies and nominations. In 1995-96, work was completed on a Systems Study of rivers in Alberta identifying twenty-two rivers as candidates for nomination to the CHRS based on their heritage and recreation values, overall integrity and feasibility for management.

Background Studies

Participating governments undertake background studies to collect specific detailed information on the heritage values and recreational opportunities of a defined study area associated with a particular river. This information is then analyzed in order to ascertain if the river appears to meet CHRS Selection and Integrity Guidelines. In addition, information is collected on the implications of managing the river according to CHRS objectives. Where a background study finds that a river appears to meet CHRS Guidelines, the managing government may, at its own discretion, prepare a nomination document for presentation to the Board. In 1995-96, Background Studies were completed for the Clearwater River in Alberta and the Trent-Severn Waterway and St. Mary's rivers in Ontario. Work also started on the Background Study for the Fraser River in British Columbia.

Nomination Documents

In order for a river to be included in the CHRS, the nominating agency must table a nomination document with the Board for review and approval. Nominations must be presented in a standard format. In 1995-96, a draft nomination document was prepared for the Clearwater River in Alberta. Work is continuing to complete this document for the review of the Board in 1996-97. Work was begun on the preparation of nomination documents for the Trent-Severn Waterway and St. Mary's River in Ontario.

Management Plans

In order for a river to be designated a Canadian Heritage River, the managing agency must lodge a management plan with the Board. The content of the plan is the prerogative of the managing agency. However, the document must meet the definition of a management plan as set out in the CHRS Guidelines.

In 1995-96, a management plan for the Boundary Waters – Voyageur Waterway in Ontario was finalized. It is expected that this plan will be tabled at the September 1996 Board meeting. Owing to the international aspect of the Waterway (forming the border between Ontario and Minnesota), the Plan identifies opportunities for enhanced Canada-U.S. cooperation in conserving and promoting the Waterway's values. Management planning was also ongoing for the Bonnet Plume River in the Yukon, the Hillsborough River in P.E.I. and the Restigouche River in New Brunswick.

Research

Over the last year a Cultural Heritage Framework was prepared and reviewed by the CHR Board. Also, preparation of a Natural Heritage Framework is still in progress and will be reviewed by the Board once completed.

PUBLIC PROMOTION AND MARKETING

Throughout 1995-96, the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board was involved in various events and activities designed to enhance public awareness of the CHRS and its role in conserving and promoting Canadian Heritage Rivers. These activities ranged from supporting the national launch of the book *Voyages – Canadás Heritage Rivers* to making slide presentations and distributing information.



Voyages – The NRCA's "Best New Environmental Publication" Left to right: Hap Wilson (Illustrator) and Lynn Noel (Editor).

The Launch of "Voyages – Canada's Heritage Rivers"

The last year was a busy one for Lynn Noel, editor of *Voyages – Canada's Heritage Rivers*, resulting in Canadian and North American recognition of the CHRS. *Voyages* was officially launched at the Vancouver Aquarium on September 24th and book signing ceremonies were held in Vancouver, British Columbia; Cambridge, Ontario; and St. John's, Newfoundland. Several media interviews were also held, including *Morningide* with Peter Gzowski on CBC Radio.

During the year, Lynn continued to publicize the book and promote the CHRS and river conservation throughout Canada and the United States. Later in 1996, the book won

the National Resources Council of America (NRCA) award for best new environmental publication. This award marked the first time a Canadian publication has ever won this prestigious award. The Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, the World Wildlife Fund and the producer of the book, QLF Canada/The Atlantic Centre for the Environment, are among the 77 major environmental groups that belong to the NRCA.

Voyages is 208 pages in length, featuring illustrations and maps by Hap Wilson, with colour and black and white photographs throughout. It is a rich and diverse collection of stories, photographs and illustrations that celebrate the twenty-seven rivers nominated to the CHRS during its first ten years (1984-1994). Voyages is about Canada's river heritage – past, present and future. It is about the vital role rivers have played in the development of Canada's culture and peoples. It is about the ten-year legacy of the CHRS, a national river conservation program that recognizes and protects some outstanding examples of Canada's river heritage.

Copies of this award-winning book can be ordered directly from the publisher, Breakwater Books Ltd., by calling their toll-free number: 1-800-563-3333.

VOYAGES - CANADA'S HERITAGE RIVERS

won the prestigious National Research Council of America's "best new environmental publication" award – the first Canadian publication ever to do so.

Print Media

New fact sheets were produced for the Arctic Red, Churchill, Shelburne, Hillsborough and the Restigouche rivers. Articles on Canadian Heritage Rivers appeared in a number of publications including one featuring the St. Croix which ran in 250 Canadian and U.S. newspapers and two on the Thelon/Zambezi Expedition which were featured in Up Here! (May/June 1995) and the New Internationalist (November 1995).

The newsletter of the Royal Society of Canada published a special edition highlighting the programs of Parks Canada, including the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. The CHRS Discover brochure was updated and reprinted in 1995. Now completely up-to-date, the brochure includes New Brunswick's most recent addition, the Restigouche River. The brochure was printed in both fold-out and poster format.

Travelling Exhibits and Displays

The Secretariat produced a travelling exhibit on Canadian Heritage Rivers for all member agencies and national parks containing Canadian Heritage Rivers. The kit consists of a portable exhibit panel system with a set of photographs, a map of the System and laminated posters. In addition, after spending 1994 in New Brunswick and 1995 being refurbished, the large CHRS exhibit – affectionately known as "Big Blue" – is ready to go back on the road again.

The CHRS set up and participated in a number of special events this past year including Canada Day as part of the "Main Street" festivities in Ottawa, Canal Days in Merrickville, Eastern Ontario's Canoe and Kayak Show along with the Heritage Canoe Festival in Peterborough. In addition to these activities, CHRS staff made presentations on the program at several locations throughout Canada.

Cooperative Activities and Partnerships

The River Meets the Electronic Superhighway

With the support of Industry Canada, the CHRS is embarking on a project to digitize information on all Canadian Heritage Rivers. The purpose of this project is to create an educational package which would be available to students through SchoolNet. This information will also be available on the CHRS Web Site (http://www.icons.net/chrs). The CHRS was also instrumental in garnering Industry Canada support for three other river-related SchoolNet Projects. Through the Canadian River Management Society (CRMS), a digitized Canadian Rivers Digest is also being created. This is an ongoing project that will see information on all rivers in Canada available on SchoolNet through the World Wide Web. Another continuing project involves the development of an educational package on the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route. Printed material, videotape, audiotape, slides and maps will be digitized and made available on SchoolNet to students worldwide. This project will be jointly developed by the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route Association; York, Simon Fraser and Lakehead universities; the Nature Conservancy of Canada; and communities along the length of the route (http://www.edu.yorku.ca/~amvr).

Canadian Heritage Rivers Calendar

The Board once again renewed its agreement with the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association (CRCA) to produce the 1997 Heritage Rivers calendar. The Board's funding for this project increased by 25% to reflect the increasing quality of the calendar and the increased costs of production. The 1996 calendar was considered a big success with 10 000 calendars printed generating almost \$15 000 in gross sales. Calendar proceeds are used to support national river conservation projects sponsored by the CRCA, such as river clean-ups. The 1997 calendar is available for \$10.95 plus shipping and handling. More information about the calendar may be obtained by writing to the CRCA, 1029 Hyde Park, London, Ontario, N0M 1Z0.

School Curriculum Project - The Grand River

During the past year, the popular folk group *Tamarack* performed at a number of southern Ontario schools. Through music and performance, the concerts focused on promoting the CHRS and river conservation.

Canadian Heritage River Videos

The CHRS continues to fund a number of videos focussing on Canadian Heritage Rivers and river conservation.

On the Grand – The Story of A River, by SBG Productions of Guelph, Ontario, is now available. This 40-minute video, which was aired on CBC Television, is the second of a three-part series of videos made for the classroom and television. The video features the music of the popular folk group Tamarack. The entire three-part series is now available. The videos explore current river and water management issues and options available for addressing these issues along with looking at the physical and spiritual significance of water to people.

A one-hour video on the Churchill River was completed by Film Crew Productions of Regina, Saskatchewan. The video presents the perspectives of the river through the eyes of local residents, Aboriginal Peoples and visitors. It looks at a number of important issues including how tourism and economic development will impact on the river, the people who live along its shores and the ecosystem the river supports. The video will be broadcast on the *Discovery Channel* on Canada Day 1996.

A series of three videos on the Soper River are now available:

Soper River: The Unknown Land – featuring music by Alex Sinclair and Susan Aglukark Recollections of Sandy Akavak – recounts stories by well-known Lake Harbour (Kimmirut) resident Archival Photographs of Lake Harbour – with narration by Elizabeth McIsaac

For information on how to purchase these videos, please contact the CHRS Secretariat.

Two New River NGOs

Rivers Canada is a recently formed organization created to "educate and advocate for the preservation of the natural values of Canada's waters, to network existing river and watershed organizations and to encourage the formation of new groups to act at the local level." Anyone interested in finding out more about this group should contact David Goranson, Rivers Canada, Box 29, 1450 Johnson Road, White Rock, B.C. V4B 5E9. Mr. Goranson is actively seeking new members across Canada.

The Canadian River Management (CRMS) is the Canadian partner of the American River Management Society (ARMS), a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the protection and sound management of rivers by serving as a broad-based forum for river managers, researchers and others who want to participate in river management. In addition, it provides assistance to researchers, supports the production of publications and videos pertinent to river conservation and encourages the professional development of river managers. The first annual general meeting of CRMS will be held in conjunction with the ARMS Symposium in Columbus, Ohio in June 1996. For more information on the CRMS, contact Michael Greco, President, 6333 Fortune Drive, Orleans, Ontario, K1C 2A4.

For More Information

Questions and requests for general information on the CHRS should be addressed to:

The Secretary
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board
c/o Parks Canada
Department of Canadian Heritage
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0M5

Requests for detailed information on specific Canadian Heritage Rivers should be addressed to the appropriate federal, provincial or territorial Board member.