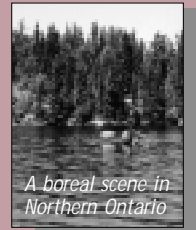




Wilderness Activist

CPAWS NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

In this issue:



*A boreal scene in
Northern Ontario*

- Bear-baiting at Riding Mountain National Park
- Letter from Bonn
- Chapter hot spots
- Boreal Program
- *Action Items*

Wood Buffalo Victory – For Now

On August 22, CPAWS won an interim injunction in federal court halting construction of a 118-kilometre winter road through the heart of Wood

Buffalo National Park. This important victory in the first stage of our legal battle against the road will keep the park safe, at least until our application for judicial review is heard.

Represented by Devon Page of the Sierra Legal Defence Fund, CPAWS argued that this

injunction was needed to prevent irreparable harm from being done to the park by the proponents of the road, the Thebacha Road Society, who were poised to start clearing the roadway in early September. The judge agreed. When our judicial review is heard on September 27,

CPAWS will argue that Parks Canada acted illegally in approving construction of the winter road in May 2001 and that a permanent injunction is needed to safeguard the park.

Straddling the Alberta-NWT border, Wood Buffalo National Park protects 45,000 square kilometres of undisturbed boreal forest, making it Canada's largest national park and the world's largest protected swath of boreal forest. But now the mayor and other business leaders in Fort Smith, NWT have lobbied successfully for permits to drive a road through the heart of this World Heritage Site, dividing what the World Conservation Union describes as the park's "vast undisturbed expanses of boreal forest" into smaller and less healthy fragments.

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Wood Buffalo National Park is home to one of the world's largest herds of wood bison and top predators like wolves.

A new chapter for Quebec's wild places

"The best time to plant a tree was 50 years ago, the second best time is today." The same statement could be made for a couple of changes taking place in Quebec today: the official formation of a CPAWS chapter in Montreal and the push for an official protected-areas strategy for the province.

"I'm really excited about the new chapter," says Jean Langlois, executive director of CPAWS Ottawa Valley chap-

ter/Section Vallée de l'Outaouais. "For years we have tried to do our bit in our corner of Quebec but it's been daunting to deal with more than just the local issues.

Langlois says that those leading the drive to establish a second CPAWS chapter in Quebec "have a huge depth of knowledge of the issues and the context within Quebec. And they have the vision that will let them dream about — and then do — what needs to be done."

(continued on page 6)



Mouse Bites Elephant

by David Thomson, President and
Stephen Hazell, Executive Director

When the elephant rolls over, the mice suffer. Well, the U.S. elephant — the energy plan of President George Bush — is definitely rolling

The Bush plan demands more fossil fuel and electricity exports from Canada, even as it rejects the Kyoto Protocol that would spur reductions in U.S. energy needs. Proposals for energy mega-projects that will destroy wilderness are popping up across Canada — at least partially in response to the Bush plan:

- ❖ construction of gas pipelines in Yukon and the Mackenzie Valley in the Northwest Territories;
- ❖ development of oil-and-gas reserves in the eastern slopes of the Rockies of Alberta and British Columbia, and in the Mackenzie Delta and southern Yukon;
- ❖ accelerated development of Alberta's tar sands;
- ❖ exploration and development of offshore oil and gas in the Pacific near the Queen Charlotte Islands, the Atlantic near Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, and the Arctic; and
- ❖ new hydroelectric dams and power transmission lines in Manitoba, Labrador, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta.



Stephen Hazell (left) and David Thomson

Given that the Canadian government seems prepared to roll over to accommodate U.S. demands for more fossil fuels and electricity, what can a Canadian mouse (let's face it) like CPAWS do?

Across Canada, CPAWS chapters are building their capacity to ensure that industrialization of the landscape for energy exports does not go ahead before we have put in place a truly interconnected, scientifically sound protected-areas system from coast to coast. Before we start the energy garage sale, we had better be sure we have locked away our wilderness jewels for safekeeping.

At National Office, the Boreal Program is up and running with Anne Janssen in place as coordinator since April 2001. Many of the Bush plan-induced mega-projects are in the boreal forest and could interfere with protection of many areas that need it. Anne and her chapter colleagues clearly face tremendous challenges if CPAWS' goal of conserving the full diversity of boreal habitats and species by protecting intact forests and reconnecting fragmented forests is to be achieved. Key steps are to convince Canadians that the boreal forest is beautiful and important and not just "bush"; continue to strengthen relationships with Aboriginal peoples threatened by mega-projects; and focus on participatory land-use planning processes that precede development. (For more information on the Boreal Program, see page 5.)

(continued on page 14)



Letters go a long way toward helping us achieve our campaign goals. Put your pen (or keyboard) where your heart is and write for the wild today! Look for **► action items** throughout this newsletter, contact your chapter (see page 12) for information on local issues and visit our website at www.cpaws.org for ongoing calls to action.



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Crossing the Line

Riding Mountain Wildlife Threatened

Nature comes first in national parks. Thanks to the new *Canada National Parks Act*, protecting the ecological integrity of Canada's parks is top priority for our parks system.

But what happens when something like bear-baiting is allowed just outside of park boundaries? In the case of Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP) in Manitoba, the results are disastrous.

There is clear evidence that wildlife-baiting activities are harming the park, which is already isolated by agriculture, says Roger Turenne, president of the CPAWS Manitoba chapter. And he believes the blame should be placed squarely on the provincial government's Wildlife Branch for allowing this damaging activity to continue.

With the encouragement and complicity of the province, more than 100 bear-baiting stations (featuring rotting beaver carcasses, honey and other food scraps) dot the park's boundary weeks before hunting season begins. Add to that, illegal — but unpoliced — elk-baiting just outside the park and it becomes clear that the Wildlife Branch cares little about the mandate of a national park.

It's hard to imagine why the Manitoba government would condone such activities affecting the integrity of a national park and an international biosphere reserve. But Turenne says that while the United Nations has recognized RMNP's "high degree of biological diversity," that designation, unfortunately, doesn't offer any real protection.

CPAWS launched a national campaign this year to stop the atrocious baiting practices around Riding Mountain. Turenne hopes to make Riding Mountain an example of why we need to address the extreme stresses — such as hunting, mining, development and logging — that can occur right on the borders of parks.

"This campaign is not about hunting," Turenne emphasizes. "CPAWS does not oppose hunting as long as it is well-managed, based on sound scientific data and does not in any way threaten the long-term viability of the species being hunted."

But the bear-baiting around RMNP does. According to a three-year study by wildlife biologist Paul Paquet, bear-baiting outside of RMNP has a significant impact on bear ecology and undermines the health of the park. "Their migratory patterns, feeding habits, age structure, sex ratio and social relationships are all distorted," Turenne notes, "not to

mention their longevity." The report revealed that virtually all the deaths of RMNP's bears during the study period were human-caused — the majority at the baiting stations.

Although the study was published a decade ago, Turenne points out that in today's context the research strongly supports a full bear-baiting ban.

As well as RMNP's bear population, the park's elk population is also at risk for many of the same reasons.

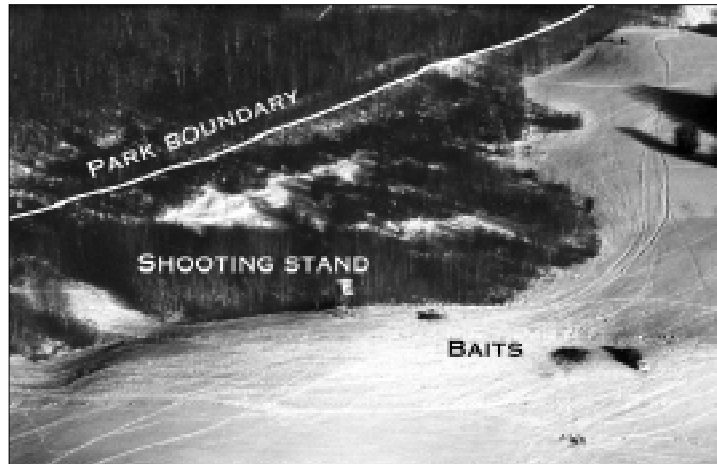
While elk-baiting is illegal, alfalfa bales are often placed just outside the park, where hunters happen to have fully constructed stands within shooting distance. Because bovine tuberculosis (TB) is a concern in the area, the repercussions of elk-baiting around RMNP include the spread of TB among elk, cattle and deer.

This contagious disease is usually transmitted through saliva and with many elk sharing the same

bales, and cattle and deer sometimes feeding from them too, the chances of an infected animal passing TB is higher than usual. "Not only are the conditions for disease transmission being enhanced," notes Lawrie Groves, vice-president of CPAWS Manitoba, "the behaviour and the long-term health of these wildlife populations are being severely compromised."

If the illegal elk-baiting was stopped and "the elk of RMNP were left alone to fend for themselves," Groves explains that "the infected, weaker animals would soon die off. Face-to-face contact between animals would be minimized. The spread of disease would be reduced and hopefully bovine TB in the elk herd would disappear."

Wolves are also being threatened by the baiting around RMNP's periphery. There are only about 50 wolves in the area and they have started to prey on the elk around the alfalfa bales, giving hunters competition. Recently, a two-year



Top: An aerial photograph shows the shooting stand near the elk baits, just outside the park boundary. Above: A bear carcass is stripped of its skin and head and left behind to rot.

(continued on page 13)



As CPAWS has grown and evolved over the past dozen years, Ken King has always been there, insisting that we never lose sight of our fundamental goal of protecting wilderness across Canada. Ken has been the chair of the Wildlands League chapter for about a decade and has also served as a CPAWS national trustee. A lot of meetings, he admits, but a lot of accomplishments as well.

Over the time that Ken has been involved with the Wildlands League chapter and CPAWS, the chapter has gone from being a completely volunteer-run organization to one that now has the staff and resources to tackle the increasingly large challenges of wilderness conservation in Ontario. The Wildlands League played a vital role in securing 378 new parks in Ontario during the Lands for Life land-use planning process and is now active in promoting a new conservation vision for the vast boreal forests of the province's far north, he points out.

Since the early board- and volunteer-driven days at the Wildlands League, Ken has seen an incredible growth in CPAWS membership, programs and visibility as a truly national conservation organization. In a nutshell, he says, the Wildlands League's strength is that "We research and follow the issues on a long-term, system-wide basis, look at alternative economic development, provide analysis on forestry and parks issues and work with industry and government."

Ken never expected to spend a decade as the Wildlands League chairperson when he took on the task in the early 1990s, but his leadership has set the stage for the League's — and CPAWS' — continued growth, even as he contemplates easing out of the demanding role. Ken sums up the job of being a board chair this way: "You must develop a strategic plan, assess and monitor that strategy, make sure that there's the staff expertise and resources necessary to fulfil those goals, remain pro-active to achieve them, understand the value of consultation and ensure that there's a strong board with members who care about wilderness and can contribute to our vision."

A lot of the Wildlands League's work is rooted in the north, the Timmins native notes, and so are his interests. With relatives who worked as loggers and miners and having spent many summers in North Bay, Ken feels he understands

the diverse nature of the north and this helps feed his interest in protecting the region.

"We must preserve cultural traditions, values and forests," he explains. "The way of life in the North is important, but we all must share the land."

Right now, Ken is looking ahead to how CPAWS' national boreal campaign can combine chapter and national strengths to address the need for protection in the far north. Addressing industrial demands on wild lands before development occurs is imperative, Ken believes, and should be our focus rather than trying to fix the damage (clearcuts, mining waste, hydroelectric dams) or protect fragments afterwards.

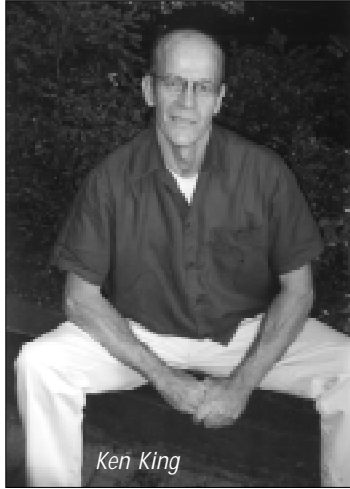
The national Parks Watch program will also have local CPAWS chapters working together while making the most of local expertise, which Ken feels will continue to strengthen CPAWS' grassroots movement. "CPAWS has strong staff in each of our chapters and we should take advantage of what our chapters can do. They're complementary yet distinct. With strong national programs we can share our knowledge and reinforce one another's efforts."

What are some of the high and low points over the years? "My deepest regret is that we've

had some great people leave because their program's funding ran out. We need more solid and longer-term funding," Ken says. On the positive side, however, "It was extremely rewarding to be a part of Lands for Life and the creation of hundreds of new parks — to be a part of what's going to be there forever.

"To know that you're a part of something that's affecting the country is rare," he adds. Canadians must realize that there's not much wilderness left, he emphasizes. "We must be alert so that what we value won't be destroyed. My experience is that the government won't protect the land unless it's pushed. Ordinary people *do* have a voice when it comes to what's done with their land."

Ken would like to see CPAWS' membership grow and he's confident it will: "No one else does what we do — protection on a large scale — with people working both at the national and local levels across the entire country. Both the Wildlands League and CPAWS national are doing very well and are considered quite powerful," he concludes. And that, in part, is due to dedicated, energetic board members like Ken King 🐾



Ken King



Members, supporters and staff of CPAWS were saddened to learn of the passing of Angus C. Scott, secretary, and member of the board of directors of the Foundation for CPAWS, on July 5th, 2001. Scott was a former national executive director of the Society. He was also a lifetime member and advocate for conservation. As an early promoter of the

A Tribute to Angus C. Scott

Foundation for CPAWS, Scott was dedicated to

building an endowment that would guarantee the continuing conservation efforts of CPAWS in protecting Canadian wilderness forever.

Donations in Angus Scott's memory may be made to the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.



CPAWS' National Boreal Program Thinking BIG

by Anne Janssen, National Boreal Coordinator

The boreal forest — spirit of the north wind, home to caribou, bear and wolf. Big ecosystems in big wilderness. This is Canada's wilderness jewel, stretching from coast to coast, and CPAWS is working hard to protect these vast forests.

In the boreal, we see a unique opportunity to do things right — to leave large interconnected areas untouched and undeveloped as protection for species, a buffer against climate change, a place to gain scientific knowledge, a place to celebrate and sustain culture and heritage, and a place to reflect on the power and beauty of nature. But CPAWS isn't the only group looking at these vast forests — forestry companies, mining industry, hydro-power developers and development-focused governments are all turning their eyes to what right now is one of our healthiest and most intact forest regions.

In April, I was hired as CPAWS' national boreal coordinator to help develop our national program and ensure that we are doing everything we can to bring CPAWS' vision for these great northern forests to life. We are now strategizing on how to address the serious challenges facing our boreal region and how to ensure that chapters have the means to help ensure a healthy, vibrant future for this vast ecosystem.

Right now we are talking with other national conservation groups, the scientific community and First Nations peoples from the boreal region about the future of this area and the need to carefully plan land uses in this region. As part of our commitment to cooperating and collaborating with Aboriginal peoples in particular, we are organizing a workshop with First Nations in January 2002 to address issues around protected areas and effective land-use planning.

At the same time, our chapters continue to be engaged in on-the-ground campaigns across the country. One of the most important natural linkages joining together the different parts of the boreal forest are rivers. River valleys are natural corridors for wildlife travel and are rich in food sources and shelter. Following are just two examples of such special places in the boreal that need your attention right now.

The Churchill River: The Heart of Saskatchewan's Boreal Forest

The Churchill is a big river, even in Canadian terms, forming a 2,100-kilometre chain of connected lakes flowing west to east through Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba until the river empties into Hudson Bay. But the Churchill is big for other reasons as well. It is a biological hot spot in the middle of the boreal forest. The largest number of species of breeding

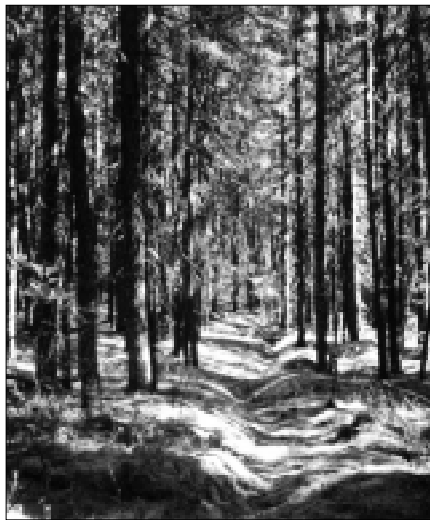
songbirds in North America can be found in its forests. And the river is also a special part of human history, home to First Nations, and a major Canadian exploration and fur-trade route. Today, the river is a homeland to many and a vacation destination for others.

Human use and economic development activities are increasing quickly in the Churchill River basin. The basin is rich in base metals and uranium, making it attractive to miners. Industrial timber cutting has not yet reached its shores in earnest, but the province is actively promoting the northern expansion of logging.

The essence of the Churchill, flowing fresh water, is also a source of threats. Dams and water-diversion projects in Manitoba make the Churchill River Canada's largest water-diversion project. A hydroelectric dam at Island Falls affects about a quarter of Saskatchewan's portion of the river basin. In the 1970s, a scheme to dam the Churchill River at Wintego Rapids was defeated, but the province is still retaining the option to proceed with hydroelectric development.

The Churchill defines the edge of wilderness in Saskatchewan's boreal forest. The river has been altered, but retains most of its natural, historic and recreational value. CPAWS Saskatchewan is the leading voice for wilderness protection in Saskatchewan and for the Churchill River. Action is required now to protect this great river and its immense northern watershed. We have limited time to secure its natural, historic and scenic wonders.

(continued on page 12)



Deep spruce woods of the boreal forest are home to creatures like bald eagles (top).

Top: Peter Meisenheimer; bottom: Anna Baggio

A New Chapter for Quebec's... (continued from page 1)

Two of the colleagues Langlois is working alongside are Dr. John O'Driscoll, a CPAWS national trustee and interim (until the official creation of the chapter this fall) president of the Montreal chapter and Brigitte Voss, the Montreal chapter coordinator.

And what needs to be done in the province is no small task: Job number one is to pressure the Quebec government to live up to its promise to unveil a protected-areas strategy and protect eight percent of the province by 2005.

"At the moment, only one-half of one percent of Quebec's lands are permanently protected from all industrial activity. The government inflates the figure to 2.8%," explains O'Driscoll, "by adding to the total several wildlife management areas where industrial activity continues to be permitted."

A draft of the long-awaited protected-areas strategy was scheduled to be unveiled in January 2001 by the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the Parks and Wildlife Agency, but the announcement was suddenly cancelled due to the MNR withdrawing its support. Quebec has missed its June 2001 deadline for unveiling the strategy, which it committed to a year ago, and no new date has been set.

It had been anticipated that at least 85,000 square kilometres of new parks and protected areas would be created as part of the implementation of the plan. (To achieve eight percent from 0.5 percent — rather than the government's 2.8 percent — the protection of 110,000 square kilometres is actually needed to fulfil the province's promise.) However, with the powerful MNR favouring logging, hydroelectric development and mining activity instead, many environment groups believe that when the strategy is finally made public it will be weak and may not result in many large protected areas representing Quebec's natural ecosystems.

"Our short-term goal is to put our nose to the grindstone and produce a protected-areas strategy with a minimum of eight percent [of the province protected] free of industry," O'Driscoll emphasizes.

CPAWS and other environmental groups will have to work quickly to transform potential candidate sites into real protected areas. After the Bush-Cheney Energy Initiative (see page 2) was announced in May, Quebec listed 36 sites on 24 rivers that would be offered to the private sector for building hydroelectric dams.

Three of the sites are on the Manitou River, O'Driscoll reports, a virtually undisturbed boreal area that has been considered for national park status since the 1970s. Montreal coordinator Voss adds that "It is essential that all potential park areas receive interim protection from any industrial development. The aim of the government should not be to ransack every natural area still available before applying its protected areas strategy.

"CPAWS has a very good opportunity to make its mark in Quebec," Voss continues, "but a lot of work needs to be done to highlight the importance of protected areas and wilderness reserves. We will have to dedicate a lot of time to working with the government, public, First Nations, industry and media," she recognizes, with public outreach and environmental education being key parts of the chapter's future.

The Montreal chapter will also be working with other environmental groups, adds O'Driscoll. While there are a number of other organizations working in Quebec, "only our group has a global park focus.

This is a niche for CPAWS and we're known for our work in this arena, but our public profile in Quebec must be developed." O'Driscoll admits that there will be a lot of groundwork for the chapter, particularly in building relationships with people and groups based near potential protected areas.

If the protection of 110,000 square kilometres is achieved in Quebec, O'Driscoll notes that "this would make it the biggest single conservation initiative in Canadian history — it's four times Lands for Life!" (The outcome of Ontario's Lands for Life land-use planning process led to the creation of 378 new protected areas.)

Langlois adds that the government's commitment to develop a protected-areas strategy that would protect eight percent of its natural areas by 2005 was a watershed moment. "This is a specific amount of land and a timeline. Our challenges are to hold the government accountable and build support for protected areas with the public."

And to lay the groundwork for saving "a whole lot more," he concludes with a smile. 🐾



Above: John O'Driscoll (left), Brigitte Voss and Jean Langlois are ready to push for an official protected areas strategy in Quebec and protect the many rivers threatened by hydroelectric development, including the Manitou River, pictured at left.

**WHAT
YOU
CAN
DO** ➤

➤ For more about the Manitou River and what you can do, see the Montreal office's hot spot on page 11. ➤ For updates on Quebec's protected-areas strategy, visit www.cpaws.org and www.cpaws-ov.org

➤ *Pour des informations en français, visitez notre site web www.cpaws-ov.org/quebec.*

Letter from Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany
July 29, 2001

Dear CPAWS:

Here I am in Bonn, and what a privilege it is to be here! Government and NGO delegates to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change are meeting constantly, trying to reach an agreement on the reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions around the globe.

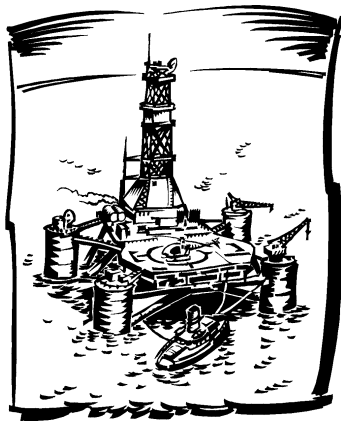
As the tension builds, and senior negotiators stay up all night, the international NGOs that are part of the international Climate Action Network are

strategizing down the street. Intelligence reports are delivered daily in a meeting of about 150 NGO delegates. After the disappointment in The Hague a few months ago, everyone is looking for appropriate flexibility. An agreement is important to enable governments to begin what will be the single most crucial socio-economic change of the next 100 years. We are talking about priorities, and what compromises can be accepted for the sake of a signed agreement.

Greenhouse-gas emissions from human activity are 31 percent higher than they have ever been before, according to the IPCC report on the scientific basis of climate change. The impacts anticipated are no longer a matter of debate — it is only the severity of the impacts that are uncertain. Conservation groups such as CPAWS are beginning to realize that climate impacts are a new and frighteningly unpredictable element in the work of protecting biodiversity — an element we must begin to address directly in our policy and program development. The alternative is to face deep disappointments as our hard-won protected areas crumble under the onslaught of the most widespread and rapid changes life has had to face since the extinction of the dinosaurs.

The impacts of climate change are expected to vary regionally across Canada. Phenomena such as more frequent and extreme weather events, increases in forest fires and insect outbreaks, and reductions in fresh water supplies can be expected. Fragile arctic and mountain ecosystems are already showing signs of stress from climate change. Glaciers and arctic ice are disappearing rapidly, polar bears are losing spring feeding time due to early ice breakup and permafrost is melting. Aboriginal communities dependent on healthy arctic ecosystems are already suffering the consequences of climate change.

In all of these cases, the one-two punch of the Bush-Cheney continental energy plan means direct damage to wilderness areas from pipelines and drilling for oil and gas combined with subsequent devastation through climate change. It would be foolhardy for Canada to agree to supply



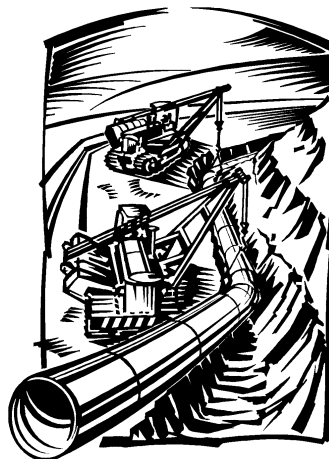
The climate changes for wilderness protection in Canada

CPAWS attends climate change talks in Bonn

U.S. energy demands without adequate long-term attention to environmental concerns. But what our governments are actually proposing is a “streamlining” of existing environmental assessment processes to remove “obstacles” to development. For all these reasons, it has become essential for CPAWS to get involved.

After many long hours of difficult negotiation, every group in the convention has agreed that Convention President Pronck’s third draft is acceptable as the basis for the agreement that will bring the Kyoto Protocol into effect as international law. The delegates are happy, Canada is happy, the NGOs and European Union are happy. Everyone has agreed on a moratorium on nitpicking for at least a day! The nuclear industry rep

on the Canadian delegation takes a trip on the Rhine. Alberta’s energy minister takes his wife sightseeing in Bonn. Members of the NGO delegations hold a celebra-



tion in Bad Gothesberg that I don’t have the energy to attend. There have been deep compromises, but there is a basis now for action. And the huge task of reducing greenhouse-gas emissions from human activity can finally begin.

I rent a bike and cycle to Koln. Riding along the Rhine, and into the ancient city of cathedrals, I come to rest in the marktplatz before Dom Koln. One hundred craftspeople are employed year-round to repair the

damage of acid rain, coal dust and weather on this beautiful stone cathedral. I light two candles before the shrine. One for my family, one for the Kyoto Protocol. May the work of repair begun this week in Bonn be taken up throughout the world.

Best Wishes,
Ani Arnott, CPAWS Communications, Education

**WHAT
YOU
CAN
DO** ➤

➤ For further information on Climate Change and Canadian parks and wilderness, see *Climate Change and Canada’s National Park System*, Scott and Suffling, Environment Canada, May 2000.

➤ To urge prompt action on reducing greenhouse-gas emissions, please write to your Premier and to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien (House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0A6 — no postage required; fax (613) 941-6900; pm@pm.gc.ca); and request a national public dialogue on energy policy and ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by February 2002.

➤ For more information, see the Action Alert on our website at www.cpaws.org/campaigns/fossil-fuel-frenzy.html

Wood Buffalo Victory — For Now *(continued from page 1)*

CPAWS has taken strong steps to oppose this destructive road plan. We have drawn public attention — and opposition — to the road and we have made it very clear to the federal government and Parks Canada that the plan is heading in completely the wrong direction — towards habitat destruction and greater threats to wildlife like caribou, moose and bison and away from Parks Canada's official mandate to protect the ecological integrity of our national parks. We have also pointed out how incompatible such development is with the park's status as a World Heritage Site and the largest protected area in Canada's boreal forest, making it one of the most important protected areas in Canada — and the world.

The road's strongest backers in Fort Smith have made it absolutely clear that what they really want is an all-season road through the park linking Fort Smith, located to the northeast of the park, to northern Alberta and Edmonton via the southwest corner of the park, says Edmonton chapter executive director Sam Gunsch. "The winter road is just a way of getting their foot in the door," he explains, "first you get the winter road and do the damage and then it's easier to get the rest. Before trying this approach, the town of Fort Smith had consistently failed in its lobbying with all-season road proposals going back to 1981."

This tactic isn't exactly new, acknowledges CPAWS national executive director Stephen Hazell. It's officially called "project splitting" and it's a simple way of trying to get around requirements to take a much more careful look at all the impacts and alternatives of a much larger project — you get your cake by carrying it away one slice at a time.

The Parks Canada approval also ignores the requirement in the new *Canada National Parks Act*, which states that ecological integrity is the first priority in parks management, Hazell points out. "You can't do an environmental assessment of this project as if you were extending a road through downtown Toronto," he notes "This is a national park and nature is supposed to come first."

In fact, one of the consultants who contributed scientific data to the environmental assessment report prepared by the road advocates was so outraged by the skewing of his findings that he has submitted a lengthy rebuttal to Parks Canada dismissing the official conclusion that the road's impacts would be manageable.

"The road will degrade the ecological integrity of Wood Buffalo National Park . . . assuming a 10 metre right-of-way,

the winter road will result in the loss of 118 hectares of habitat. More importantly, the road [will] dissect hundreds of square kilometres of ecosystem and would act as a disturbance conduit," writes Kevin Timoney, who also worked as Wood Buffalo's park ecologist from 1993-1996.

Anyone familiar with the important ecological role of national parks would have to wonder how the road proposal even got out of the starting gate. Extending a road through a national park for non-park purposes violates a number of conditions of the National Parks Policy, none of which are the least bit vague:

- ❖ "National park ecosystems will be managed with minimal interference to natural processes;"
- ❖ "Effort will be made to prevent the introduction of exotic plants and animals;"
- ❖ "New roads and trails that constitute through routes designed to serve other than park purposes will not be considered."

Let's look at how the road proposal stacks up against these requirements:

- ❖ the road will degrade fish habitat at 14 stream crossings;
- ❖ it will create a new and easier winter travel route for wolves, which will put unnatural pressure on their prey — bison, moose and caribou;
- ❖ the natural formations of the park's gypsum karst landscapes could be damaged;
- ❖ roads are notorious as pathways for the migration of weeds and unwanted non-native species into previously intact and healthy ecosystems.

Parks Canada acknowledges the road will serve no park purpose. Road promoters insist that the winter road will follow an existing route — a winter logging road allowance cleared in the winter of 1958-59 and abandoned after one more winter's use in 1960. What's left after 40 years of regrowth is a mostly grown-over track that is only still clearly visible in ecologically sensitive and slow-to-regenerate areas such as the park's sand dune systems.

These are just some of the impacts of the winter road. The road the Fort Smith supporters really want — an all-season road — would have to follow a significantly different route for close to a third of its total proposed distance. "The winter route goes through some really low areas where an all-season route would simply be washed out. It would have to go around these areas and around sensitive landscapes, like the park's karst formations," Gunsch explains. In other words,



Top: The proposed road dissects sensitive ecosystems.
Bottom: A wolf stalks a herd.

road impacts would easily double for significant portions of the route, an issue that was highlighted but not assessed in the “superficial” environmental assessment that was restricted to the winter road, he points out.

Simply clearing and constructing the winter road right-of-way will cost \$350,000, a bill that will be footed by the federal and NWT governments if the road plan goes ahead. The Thebacha Road Society, the official proponent of the road based in Fort Smith, could not even pay for the simple assessment of the winter road — Parks Canada footed the \$70,000 bill for that (normally, project advocates pay the costs of environmental assessments of their proposals). An all-season road is expected to cost in the neighbourhood of \$25 million.

In the communities surrounding the park and even in Fort Smith itself, support for the road ranges from weak to highly divided. At the public hearing in Fort Smith, the community with the greatest stake in the road, nine people were recorded as being in favour of the road, while eight opposed it.

The Mikisew Cree of Fort Chipewyan are strongly opposed to the road because they believe it would interfere with their traditional land use and trapping areas along the route. They have also filed a legal action to stop the road.

While there has been talk that the road would improve connections between Fort Smith and Edmonton, the math doesn't add up, notes Gunsch. The environmental assessment points out that the new winter road would be a longer route to Edmonton than an existing winter route through the park via Fort Chipewyan and Fort McMurray. With no travel benefit for the winter road, it becomes even more apparent that the real purpose of the project is to pave the way for an all-season road.

Gunsch believes the major justification for the all-season road is the belief that it could increase tourism traffic to Fort Smith by creating a circular road route through the park from Alberta to

(continued on page 14)

Impacts of Roads

We know what logging a forest or building a mine can do to the homes of wild creatures, but many people still don't realize that building a road through a wild area can also have devastating results. In fact, the impacts can spread up and down the food chain — from large predators being hit by vehicles to disappearing food supplies for plant eaters, thanks to exotic invasive plants displacing native vegetation.



A fox tries to cross a busy road in Algonquin Provincial Park.

Here are some of the now well-understood impacts of roads:

☹ Animals large and small can be hit by cars and trucks traveling along roads, even at low speeds. In areas where natural habitat is already limited, road kill can be devastating for wild species.

☹ The openings created by roads have numerous impacts: they can affect a species' ability to hunt, hide or find denning or nesting sites. Smaller species may find it physically impossible to cross roads, leading to isolated or divided populations that are eventually weakened by inbreeding.

☹ Road openings and edges are hotter, drier and dustier and these effects can spread for hundreds of metres into the remaining forest. The result is a very different sort of habitat — one that favours weedier species over shade-tolerant interior forest species. Other forest species may suddenly find their home dramatically changed for the worse.

☹ Many wild creatures need the security of large areas of unbroken habitat and will shy away from road openings even if the roads are rarely or never used. Species such as black bear, lynx and grizzlies have been shown to avoid areas with high

road densities. (Lynx, for example, will generally not cross openings wider than 30 metres.) More roads mean less adequate habitat for these species. This effect is called fragmentation — the breaking up of large intact areas of habitat into smaller and less useful fragments.

☹ Roads create easy access for hunters, fishing enthusiasts and poachers. A sudden surge in hunting pressure can devastate animal populations, particularly as hunters often target the largest, fittest animals in a population. Meanwhile, studies have found that it can take just months for previously hard-to-reach lakes to be “fished out” after road access is established.

☹ Roads are the express access lane for exotic invasive species. The hot, dry conditions along roads favour species that thrive in disturbed conditions and that further disrupt the balance of natural ecosystems by taking over large areas. The single-species stands often created by invasive plants are much less useful as habitat and food sources for wild creatures. Vehicles can carry seeds and plant materials deep into what was previously an inaccessible wilderness, spreading invasives for miles.

☹ Pollution, from noise to oil, gas and heavy metals, is spread the length of the road, while sand, gravel and sediment running off the road itself can cloud and clog streams and cover over important spawning areas. Roads also attract garbage and waste dumping.

☹ And, of course, road building requires the direct destruction of habitat, den sites, food sources, etc.

These are just some of the environmental impacts of roads — the list goes on. And that is why both Parks Canada and the United States Forest Service have adopted strong policies designed to limit the spread of roads into wild areas. But these policies are only words on paper if road building is allowed to continue in places like Wood Buffalo National Park. 🐾

For more on the impacts of roads, see www.wildlandscpr.org



BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAPTER

Making up only 1.5% of British Columbia, B.C.'s grasslands are truly rare. The antelope brush grasslands of the southern Okanagan represent one of the most endangered landscapes in Canada. Threatened by overgrazing, noxious weeds, forest encroachment and urban expansion, B.C.'s grasslands are home to about

25% of all provincial wildlife species of concern. They support more of Canada's threatened or endangered species than any other habitat in British Columbia.

The largest remaining grasslands are the bunchgrass steppes of the Southern and Central Interior regions. However there are also pockets of grassland communities on southern Vancouver Island, the Peace River and even in the cold mountains of the Northern Rockies.

Recognizing the unique nature and fragility of this habitat, CPAWS-B.C. is leading efforts to protect B.C.'s grasslands by supporting three campaigns. First, we are renewing the campaign to have an Interior Grasslands National Park established. Second, we are active in the federal-provincial science conservation partnership being initiated in the southern Okanagan. Third, we are monitoring existing grassland parks to ensure they are managed to protect their ecological integrity. With the serious threats B.C.'s grasslands are facing we must be ever vigilant.



CALGARY/BANFF CHAPTER

While still celebrating three new parks in Kananaskis Country and on adjacent lands, we have our work cut out for us to see that lands lying outside the parks are managed in a responsible and sustainable manner. A Forest Management Agreement will likely give control of the unprotected forests of the Bow River Forest Reserve to a private logging company, Spray Lake

Sawmills. Meanwhile, the announcement of the G-8 meeting of international leaders at Kananaskis Village has placed the natural environment of the region in even more peril. Whether it's through new calls for facility development, an influx of people for the meeting (both officials and demonstrators), or by publicizing Kananaskis Country to the world, this event, and the world attention it will draw, is not good news for the wildlife of this narrow mountain valley. It will require extraordinary efforts to see that the natural environment of the Kananaskis does not suffer serious harm from the G-8 event.

All of these issues are being dealt with in the absence of any overall provincial policy or vision for Kananaskis Country. The Regional Sustainable Development Strategy, which Premier Ralph Klein said in May 1999 was necessary to determine the future use of K-Country, is still nowhere to be seen.



EDMONTON CHAPTER

Establishing new parks and protected wilderness areas in Alberta's forests remains the top priority for the Edmonton chapter. The Chinchaga area in Alberta's northern foothills forest remains our strongest focus (see Boreal Program update on page 5). Special Places 2000, Alberta's protected areas process that began in 1995, recently concluded with

less than 2% of Alberta's foothills forest protected in parks and wilderness areas. Large forest areas — areas the size of Banff and Jasper — need to be protected in this region to secure a future for endangered wildlife like Alberta's woodland caribou.

Special Places designated a Chinchaga park of only 800 km². We are asking the province to consider a new public review process for 10,000 km² of Chinchaga forests held in reserve for the proposed \$900 million Grande Alberta Paper Ltd. pulp-and-paper mill. Unfortunately, the Hon. Mike Cardinal, minister responsible for forests, continues to hold the position that Albertans will only be consulted *after* any deal on our public forests has been signed with the forest industry.



From coast to coast, here are some of the top issues that our chapters are working on. There are some great suggestions here for things you can do to make a difference. Turn to page 12 for chapter contact information.



YUKON CHAPTER

CPAWS-Yukon is pleased with the Yukon government's recent announcement that it will implement the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy (YPAS) — a clear sign that the government will move ahead with the initiative. YPAS will establish protection of key habitat and watershed areas in 13 of the Yukon's 23 ecoregions.

Unfortunately, the government also announced some adjustments to the strategy. Our major concern? Originally, YPAS insisted on significant community involvement at all levels of the process. The Yukon government is now suggesting a "top down" approach. The government will identify and define the areas in need of protection and then the community will be included in the finer land-use planning. This will be an obstacle to successful implementation of the YPAS — community involvement, at all levels, is essential to its success. Another concern is the lack of information on how the process will be initiated. The government says it will implement YPAS over the next two years, but it does not state how it will begin to identify and withdraw all protected areas by spring 2003.

Overall, the public announcement to move ahead is a positive step. CPAWS-Yukon is looking forward to a busy and productive two years.



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CHAPTER

The Greater Nahanni Ecosystem is a 33,000 km² wild area dominated by rugged mountains, turbulent rivers and abundant wildlife. The area consists of

the South Nahanni Watershed, the Nahanni National Park Reserve (NNPR) and three proposed park reserve expansion areas. Since our last report, development pressure within the ecosystem has increased: The Prairie Creek lead-zinc mine, adjacent to the NNPR, could be operational as early as 2003; the Cantung Mine, in the northern portion of the watershed, may be operational by the end of 2001; and other mining work is pressing in on the boundaries.

The cumulative impacts of these developments threaten to fragment the wilderness buffer around the park and degrade the ecological health of the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem. CPAWS-NWT is working to protect the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem in two ways. First by intervening in the regulatory process to mitigate and prevent impacts from industrial development, and secondly by lobbying Parks Canada and other agencies to move forward with expanding the NNPR. The next year is crucial for the future of this world-class wilderness area. ➤ Please write to Heritage Minister Sheila Copps and Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Robert Nault describing your concern over the threats to the area and ask them to stop further development until interim withdrawal of the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem (the watershed and proposed park expansion areas) is in place and protection measures can be more fully discussed. Both can be written at the House of Commons (see Saskatchewan for the address).



SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

One of Canada's larger national parks, Prince Albert National Park, lies in the heart of Saskatchewan's southern boreal forest. It's a magnificent 3,800 km² refuge for wildlife to thrive in and for people to enjoy. Today, the ecological health of Prince Albert is

at risk. Research scientists strongly advise that some park-management policies must change so that wildlife, lands and waters are healthy for a long time.

A new park management plan is currently being developed. Unfortunately, it appears that the new plan will not address some key ecological concerns. The reason? Small, highly vocal special-interest groups and individuals are demanding that their personal preferences for park management be placed ahead of much-needed change.

To facilitate positive change, Parks Canada needs to hear from people who care about the ecological health of this beautiful national park. The new management plan is being written now. ➤ Please write Heritage Minister Sheila Copps. Tell her the new plan must ensure the ecological integrity of the park and must provide clear direction for implementing new initiatives (see www.cpaws-sask.org for more details). ➤ Copy your letter to the Superintendent at Prince Albert National Park. Sheila Copps, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0A6 (no postage required); min_copps@pch.gc.ca. Prince Albert National Park, Box 100, Waskesiu, Sask., S0J 2Y0.



WILDLANDS LEAGUE CHAPTER

In July, the Ontario government announced the start of resource-development planning in the forests of Ontario's northern boreal. The focus of the planning effort is on starting forestry operations near First Nation communities that are within 100 kilometres of

the current northern limit for logging. Wildlands League has been working with these First Nation communities, the forest industry and government to ensure that comprehensive land-use planning and the creation of protected areas are key parts of this program. Right now, the process does not address mining, hydro dams or roads. While we remain committed to working with the communities and government, we remain concerned that these other developments must be addressed along with forestry and conservation planning.

As part of our effort to take a proactive role in conserving this vast wild forest region, the Wildlands League recently completed a conservation assessment trip in a portion of the area under discussion. ➤ For more information on this journey and on the land-use process, please visit www.wildlandsleague.org



OTTAWA VALLEY/OUTAOUAIS CHAPTER

The La Blanche Forest, a rare western Quebec mature mixed forest, could soon be protected with your help. Our collaborative campaign has brought us very close to our goal of permanent legal protection for this remarkable natural area, but the provincial government still needs to take one final step. Please add your voice to those of CPAWS, the

Friends of the La Blanche Forest, the affected municipalities and the regional government in asking Quebec to designate the entire La Blanche forest as a *réserve écologique projetée*. ➤ Write to André Boisclair, Minister of the Environment, Marie-Guyart Building, 675 René-Lévesque Blvd. East, 30th floor, Québec, Que., G1R 5V7; fax (418) 643-4143. ➤ Informations en français / more information: www.cpaws-ov.org



MANITOBA CHAPTER

Manitoba's provincial parks have been operating in a vacuum since the implementation of the new *Provincial Parks Act* in 1996, which rendered all existing park-management plans obsolete. Since then, public consultations for new management plans have taken place for only two of our major

parks (Atikaki Wilderness Park and Grand Beach Provincial Park) and both of these plans are still "in the works." Management plans are critical as they set out what activities are allowed in each park. (The absence of a plan provided a loophole for the former government to introduce cottage developments in Hecla Provincial Park.)

At the current rate, it will take more than 20 years to complete management plans for all of Manitoba's parks! In the meantime, the door is wide open to abuse. With only three Parks Branch staff members tasked with this overwhelming responsibility, along with many other duties, it is clear the matter is not being taken seriously by the government. Urge the Manitoba government to allocate the necessary staff and budget to complete the provincial park management plans in a reasonable timeframe. ➤ Write to the Hon. Oscar Lathlin, Minister of Conservation, Room 333, Legislative Bldg., 450 Broadway, Winnipeg, Man., R3C 0V8; mincon@leg.gov.mb.ca. ➤ For more information, contact Beth McKechnie, executive director, at river@mb.sympatico.ca



BUREAU DE MONTREAL

Ayant bloqué la Stratégie québécoise sur les aires protégées (SQAP) depuis janvier, le Ministère des ressources naturelles s'apprête maintenant à sacrifier un des plus beaux sites naturels au Québec.

A l'est de Sept-Îles la région presque vierge de la Rivière Manitou offre des gorges, des chutes, des lacs encaissés et des sommets dépassant mille mètres, et abrite des espèces menacées telles le caribou des bois, le carcajou, et le saumon de l'Atlantique. Dès les années 70, on l'a identifiée comme une des trois Aires naturelles d'importance canadienne (ANIC) dans la vaste région naturelle des Haute-terres boréales laurentiennes (qui s'étend de l'Ontario jusqu'au Labrador), et d'après les études de Parcs Canada elle est digne du statut de parc national.

Pourtant, en mai dernier le MRN a proposé la construction de centrales hydro-électriques privées à 36 nouveaux sites — dont trois sur la Rivière Manitou! Cette incurie de la part du MRN menace un joyau de la Côte-Nord, et souligne l'urgence de compléter la SQAP et de donner une protection immédiate aux sites candidats en l'attendant.

➤ SVP écrire au M. André Boisvert, Ministre de l'Environnement (et responsable de la SQAP) 675 boul. René-Lévesque E., 30e étage, Québec (Québec) G1R-5V7 ou cab.ministre@menv.gouv.qc.ca. Exigez la protection de la Rivière Manitou, et le déblocage de la SQAP. ➤ Pour plus d'informations, voir l'article sur la Stratégie québécoise sur les aires protégées à la page 1.)

➤ To read the English translation of this hot spot, please visit www.cpaws.org/grassroots-chapters/qc-montreal.html

Look for ➤ **action items** ➤
for your chapter and get involved!
Visit www.cpaws.org
for more action alerts.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CHAPTER

How to contact us

address: P.O. Box 1934,
Yellowknife, NWT, X1A 2P4
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e-mail:
cpaws-nwt@yellowknife.com

YUKON CHAPTER

How to contact us

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Y1A 5P7
phone: (867) 393-8080
fax: (867) 393-8081
e-mail: cpaws@cpawsyukon.org

BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAPTER

How to contact us

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phone: (604) 685-7445
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website: www.cpawsbc.org

CALGARY/BANFF CHAPTER

How to contact us

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website: www.cpawscalgary.org
Executive director Dave Poulton's
e-mail: poultond@cadvision.com
Education director Gareth Thomson's
e-mail: cpaws_education@telusplanet.net

EDMONTON CHAPTER

How to contact us

address: P.O. Box 52031, 8210 - 109 St.,
Edmonton, Alta., T6G 2T5
phone: (780) 432-0967
fax: (780) 439-4913
e-mail: edmc paw s@ecn.ab.ca

HelpWanted/Wish List

- * photocopier

SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

How to contact us

address: Room 36, 1002 Arlington Ave.,
Saskatoon, Sask., S7H 2X7
phone: (306) 955-6197
fax: (306) 955-6168
e-mail: cpaws.sask@getthe.net
website: cpaws-sask.org

CPAWS NATIONAL OFFICE

1-800-333-WILD | info@cpaws.org | #506, 880 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ont., K1R 6K7



MANITOBA CHAPTER

How to contact us

address: P.O. Box 344,
Winnipeg, Man., R3C 2H6
phone: (204) 339-0247
fax: (204) 338-4727
e-mail: river@mb.sympatico.ca

HelpWanted/Wish List

- * colour inkjet printer
- * filing cabinets

WILDLANDS LEAGUE CHAPTER

How to contact us

address: Suite 380, 401 Richmond St. W.,
Toronto, Ont., M5V 3A8
phone: (416) 971-9453
fax: (416) 979-3155
e-mail: info@wildlandsleague.org
website: www.wildlandsleague.org

HelpWanted/Wish List

- * parking spot in downtown Toronto
- * table-drawer unit to hold maps

OTTAWA VALLEY/OUTAOUAIS CHAPTER

How to contact us

address: Suite 601, 880 Wellington St.,
Ottawa, Ont., K1R 6K7
phone: (613) 232-7297
fax: (613) 232-2030
e-mail: jlanglois@cpaws.org
website: www.cpaws-ov.org

HelpWanted/Wish List

Items are needed in Ottawa/Hull and in Montreal, and a tax receipt can be issued for their donation.

- * computers (Pentium or newer, laptop or desktop)
- * CD burner
- * for slideshows/presentations: light table, portable screen, digital/video projector, overhead projector

MONTREAL OFFICE

Pour nous contacter

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ATLANTIC REGION CHAPTER

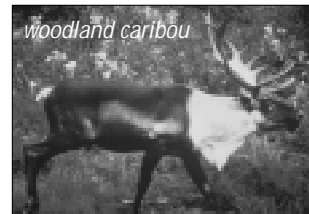
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Boreal Program (continued from page 5)

The Chinchaga Wilderness: Alberta's Endangered Caribou Country

Woodland caribou in western Canada are threatened by widespread logging of old-growth forests and the intense forest fragmentation caused by oil-and-gas exploration. Establishing large protected areas that protect core home ranges of caribou herds is critical for their survival, but governments and industry continue to push for more industrial development.



In Alberta, a new \$900 million pulp-and-paper mill is proposed for a

Tim Timmermann

caribou habitat area in the northern foothills around the Chinchaga River. An upcoming environmental review hearing will be the key forum for defeating the mill proposal. CPAWS and other wilderness groups are campaigning to establish a core protected area of at least 6,500 square kilometres that includes the core caribou home range in relatively intact condition within a greater study area of 11,000 square kilometres.

While portions of the Chinchaga region have been significantly fragmented by oil-and-gas access roads, pipelines and cutlines (and will require restoration), forestry activity is so far quite limited and along the perimeter. The most significant threat is the pending allocation of 10,000 square kilometres of forest to the pulp-and-paper mill under a long-term agreement.

I will be working to continue to bring you information about our boreal region, its creatures and wonders, and the threats and the opportunities to protect it. Most importantly, I hope to engage you to help us protect this remarkable wilderness. Please visit www.cpaws.org/boreal for more on how you can help, what we are doing in the boreal forests and to learn more about one of Canada's greatest forest ecosystems. 🌲

Crossing the Line (continued from page 3)

moratorium on killing wolves around the park was introduced. However, before this, anyone with a big-game hunting licence could shoot a wolf. Although the moratorium is now in effect, many people worry that it will be ignored, just as the ban on elk-baiting has been.

RMNP's wolves are far from alone in facing threats just outside of park boundaries: The wolves in Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario are also targeted by hunters when they follow deer out of park. Listed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) this spring as of "special concern," Algonquin's wolves are now believed to be close relatives of the endangered red wolf in the United States. A multi-stakeholder taskforce that has been studying the issue of protecting the park's wolves has proposed protection for the wolves outside the park, but with one big loophole — this protection would not be in effect during the fall hunting season, the very time hunters are armed and in the woods.

What's at stake in Riding Mountain, Algonquin and many other parks are complex predator-prey relationships that have a large impact on the health of park ecosystems. For example, Turenne explains, "more elk will go out of the park because there's less browse in the park. That's because beavers are flooding the meadows, which reduces the elk habitat. The beaver population is exploding because there are no predators — the wolves. No one is looking at the overall picture. The ecosystem is out of balance and the park is too small."

Part of the Manitoba campaign's objective is to get all levels of government, landowners and other interest groups talking and developing long-term strategies to maintain the health and integrity of RMNP by looking at the park in the context of its place — and connections — in the bigger landscape.

Since the campaign began, Turenne says that CPAWS has been building public support for a ban on bear-baiting surrounding the park and has opened up some channels of communication with the provincial government.

Turenne thinks that Oscar Lathlin, Manitoba's minister of conservation, is genuinely looking for a solution. In a letter from the minister, Turenne was told that all of CPAWS' recommendations with respect to elk were being implemented or studied.

The outcome of this campaign may set a precedent for how parks are managed and protected — inside and outside their boundaries. "The resolution of this issue will have repercussions throughout the country," Turenne believes. "This formula could be applied across Canada: Prince Albert in Saskatchewan, Fundy in New Brunswick."

CPAWS will continue to push governmental bodies to recognize that the protection of our parks' ecological integrity is a priority — a legislated one — and that working together is better than working at cross purposes. With many of our parks becoming islands in a developed or altered landscape, CPAWS is determined to protect the biological diversity of all our wild lands and have governments and parks agencies look beyond boundaries to see the big picture of what wildlife and wild places really need. 🐾



A bait barrel just outside of Riding Mountain and a wolf snare just outside of Algonquin are waiting for wildlife.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ➤

➤ Write to Minister of Conservation Oscar Lathlin and ask for three things: that he immediately ban the practice of bear-baiting around the periphery of Riding Mountain National Park (hunting areas 23 and 23A); that the province start to seriously enforce its laws against elk-baiting; and that it sit down with the federal government, local municipalities, landowners and other interested parties to establish a long-term and comprehensive plan to maintain the health and integrity of RMNP. Send your letter to Oscar Lathlin, Minister of Conservation, Room 333, Legislative Building, 450 Broadway, Winnipeg, Man., R3C 0V8; fax (204) 945-3586; mincon@leg.gov.mb.ca

CPAWS chosen as a Citizens Bank Shared Interest Award Recipient for 2000

CPAWS was awarded the Citizens Bank Shared Interest Award in the environment category. This top award was shared with Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) who won for the category of Human Rights and International Coop-



eration. Citizens Bank is built on the premise that all companies have a responsibility to use their resources in ways that can make a positive difference to individuals, the community, and the world around us. For more information, visit www.citizensbank.ca

Mouse Bites Elephant (continued from page 2)

CPAWS also welcomes Alison Woodley as the new federal/northern campaigner at National Office. Alison spends half her time campaigning in Ottawa to establish new northern protected areas on behalf of CPAWS-Yukon and CPAWS-NWT. The rest of the time she is working on the establishment and expansion of national parks and protection of the ecological integrity of current parks. Alison will be on the Ottawa front line for CPAWS as the debate over northern pipelines and oil-and-gas development heats up.

The Bush plan also highlights the negative effects that climate change will have on Canadian wilderness and protected areas. The shunning of energy efficiency and renewable energy by the U.S. is likely to aggravate climate change and increase the harm to nature in Canada and globally.

CPAWS has championed the establishment of wildlands networks, through programs such as the Yellowstone-to-Yukon Conservation Initiative and Algonquin to Adirondacks. By creating corridors for wildlife movement between protected areas, these networks may prove invaluable in protecting biodiversity in times of rapid climate change.

Ani Arnott, CPAWS communications and education coordinator, was a member of the Canadian delegation at Bonn, Germany in the Kyoto Protocol discussions (see page 7 for more details). Ani brings home her insights about if and how CPAWS can become engaged in the debate over implementation of Kyoto Protocol in order to advance our wilderness protection objectives.

Mouse bites elephant? 🐭

Gift Planning? Meet Sue Dunton

CPAWS is pleased to announce the recent appointment of Sue Dunton as Development Officer – Major Gifts and Planned Giving. Sue hails from the edge of the Bruce Trail in Hamilton where she attended McMaster University and served as a member of the Canadian volleyball team. Sue's job is to assist members when considering major or planned gifts to CPAWS.

CPAWS members often wonder how they "might do more" to protect Canada's wilderness and wildlife. Canada's current tax rules encourage donations to charities that may provide secure life income (that is not controlled by market swings), substantial tax savings including capital gains tax, and an increase in overall after-tax income.

For more information on how an investment in wilderness protection may benefit your personal financial plan, please call Sue at 1-800-333-WILD.

CPAWS endorses and maintains membership in the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the Canadian Association of Gift Planners.



Wood Buffalo Victory – For Now (continued from page 9)

Fort Smith. But what could Fort Smith achieve if instead of spending thousands or even millions of dollars on road building — degrading Wood Buffalo's wilderness in the process — it spent that money on tourism marketing and infrastructure instead? Gunsch asks.

There's no question that the road will cost the park: lost and fragmented habitat, road-related wildlife deaths, and many new threats to the ecology of a magnificent boreal wilderness that is home to one of the world's largest free-ranging bison herds.

It's not a price we should be willing to pay. 🐾

**WHAT
YOU
CAN
DO ➤**

➤ Write to Heritage Minister Sheila Copps and tell her that approving a road through Wood Buffalo is a big mistake. Ask her why Parks Canada is not protecting the ecological integrity of one of Canada's most important parks as its official mandate requires. Sheila Copps, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0A6 (no postage required); min_copps@pch.gc.ca

➤ You can follow developments on this issue on our

website at www.cpaws.org/woodbuffalo

yes, I want to protect canada's magnificent wilderness!

Please accept my donation towards your campaigns to save Canada's endangered ecosystems!

I understand all contributions are eligible for a tax receipt.

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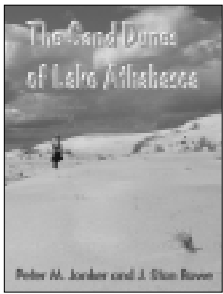
*Make your cheque or money order payable to CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY and send it along with this form to us in the reply envelope enclosed in this newsletter.

Wilderness Books (continued from back page)

“Any remaining opportunities to protect substantially natural areas must be seized immediately before the engine of development swallows them up. The various parks agencies must recognize that the absence of ‘pristine’ nature is no excuse to close the book on park creation. Areas around existing parks should be acquired whenever possible and new sites identified for protection and restoration.”

Jerry Valen DeMarco

You can order *Voices for the Watershed* for \$35 from the Wildlands League at (416) 971-WILD, info@wildlandsleague.org or online at www.wildlandsleague.org



The Sand Dunes of Lake Athabasca: Your Adventure in Learning

by Peter M. Jonker and J. Stan Rowe

**\$35; soft cover; 194 pages; University of
Saskatchewan - Extension Division**

Review by Branimir Gjetvaj

There is a widespread perception that Saskatchewan is nothing but endless fields of wheat and barley (along with whatever is left of the original prairie ecosystems). In reality, less than a third of the province is represented by such landscapes. The remaining two-thirds are covered by various types of mixed boreal and boreal forests and even some transitional subarctic vegetation zones leading into tundra at the extreme north end of the province.

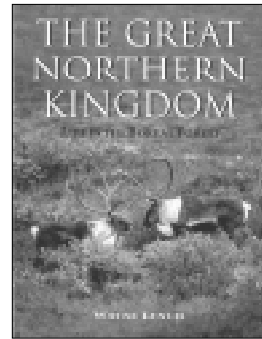
An area of special interest is the spectacular sand dunes along the south shore of Lake Athabasca. This shoreline area is characterized by flat sandstone bedrock and an almost continuous cover of sandy glacial deposits. After the last glaciers withdrew, the area was exposed to sand-sifting winds that created vast expanses of ridges and hills. Today visitors will find a thick forest of jack pine and black spruce, except for a few areas of open sand dunes along the south shores of Lake Athabasca. The dunes host several species of rare plants, such as Turnor's willow, sand chickweed and Mackenzie hairgrass, which are not found anywhere else in the world.

Jonker and Rowe's book is an outstanding introduction to this fascinating world. It opens a window on the amazing landforms and the plants and animals that live here and provides a glimpse of the history of peoples that long inhabited the Lake Athabasca shores. It is an authoritative ecological study on the sand-dune region and provides its readers with invaluable information on this unique northern ecosys-

tem. Numerous colour photographs accompany the text. There are illustrations explaining the creation and ecology of the dune ecosystem and handy charts explaining animal tracks in the sand. One photograph captures the tracks of a wolf, gull, meadow jumping mouse and Canadian toad, all in a single frame.

To quote Chief Dan George: “If you talk to the animals they will talk with you and you will know each other. If you do not talk to them, you will not know them, and what you do not know you will fear. What one fears one destroys.” Jonker and Rowe go a long way with this book toward helping us to know more about the outstanding world of the Athabasca Sand Dunes.

The Sand Dunes of Lake Athabasca can be purchased by contacting the publisher; U-Learn, Extension Division, 117 Science Place, Saskatoon, Sask., S7N 5C8; phone (306) 966-5565; u.learn@usask.ca. For each copy sold, a \$2 contribution will be made to CPAWS toward ongoing protection of the Lake Athabasca sand dunes ecosystems.



The Great Northern Kingdom – Life in the Boreal Forest

by Wayne Lynch

**\$39.95; hard cover; Fitzhenry &
Whiteside**

Spreading across the top of North America from Alaska to Newfoundland and sweeping across the breadth of Russia to the fjords of western

Scandinavia, is the great northern forest. An immense swath of spruce, fir, larch, and aspen, it is arguably the largest forest ecosystem in the world. In *The Great Northern Kingdom*, noted science writer, naturalist, and wildlife photographer Wayne Lynch examines the animals and plants of this mighty forest as the seasons unfold.

Through the raging wildfires of spring and summer and into the long, frigid months of a northern winter, the boreal forest teems with life. Wayne Lynch explores the life-cycles of the mammals, birds, frogs, and flowers that have adapted to the demanding climate of this vast forest. In the entertaining, informative prose that has become his trademark style, Lynch offers detailed information about the flora and fauna, beautiful colour photographs, environmental issues, and recent scientific discoveries in a fascinating and accessible book.

Lynch is the author of numerous award-winning books and television documentaries. His books include *Wild Birds Across the Prairies*, *Mountain Bears*, *A is for Arctic*, and *Penguins of the World*.

Endangered Species Legislation

Parliament has still not passed the *Species at Risk Act* (Bill C-5 is its third try since 1995). More than 18,000 CPAWS members and supporters have signed letters, postcards and petitions to the Prime Minister, Environment Minister David Anderson and Members of Parliament supporting a stronger law. Together with other national conservation organizations, CPAWS is pushing for key improvements to Bill C-5, such as mandatory habitat protection in all areas of federal jurisdiction, a science-based listing process and adoption of the current species at risk list as a formal part of the law.



The Algonquin wolf was listed recently as of "special concern".

The Standing Committee on the Environment will resume hearings on the bill when Parliament reconvenes this fall. There is a good chance the committee will put forward improvements to the bill, but whether the Cabinet and Environment Minister David Anderson will be open to these changes remains to be seen. If the committee does put

forward important amendments, it will be crucial for members to write and/or call their MPs in support of the changes — we must convince the government that they have to get this important piece of legislation right on the third attempt. Check our website (www.cpaaws.org) for updates and information on letter writing. 🐾

The following books may be of particular interest to CPAWS members not only because of their content but also because they are edited or written by CPAWS national and chapter board members and supporters. Pick them up now!



or economics. This book reveals to us the political and social challenges of protecting wilderness and outlines concrete steps that have to be taken. If wilderness has the values I suggest, then this book should be crucial reading for all who care."



Politics of the Wild: Canada and Endangered Species

Edited by Karen Beazley and Robert Boardman

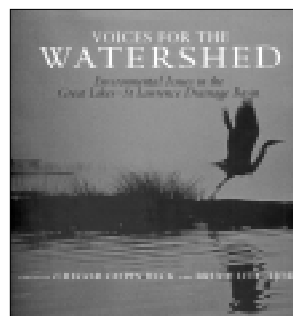
**\$26.95; soft cover; 288 pages;
Oxford University Press**

One hundred years after the first international agreement to protect wildlife, Canada is still awaiting a federal law to protect species at risk. *Politics of the Wild* details the hundreds of species at risk in Canada and discusses protecting biological diversity, enacting legislation, the need for habitat protection, terrestrial protected areas, marine species at risk and public policy on endangered species.

Excerpt from the preface, written by David Suzuki:

"Whenever I visit a new area, I seek out elders so I can ask them what they remember of this place when they were children. And everywhere, the answer is the same chilling refrain: 'It used to be so different.' They speak of vast tracts of forest rich with animals, skies filled with birds, and waters teeming with fish. All over the planet, including its remotest parts, our elders are a living record of enormous ecological changes triggered by human activity. The scale and scope of these impacts have induced a massive loss of species and their habitats. The cause is called progress, a frenzied effort to exploit elements of the natural world far beyond their capacity to regenerate themselves....

"This important book shows us that the wild and wilderness have values that far surpass material necessity



Voices for the Watershed: Environmental Issues in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Drainage Basin

Edited by Gregor Gilpin Beck and Bruce Litteljohn for the Wildlands League chapter of CPAWS

**\$35; hard cover; 300 pages;
McGill-Queen's University Press**

Named best advocacy publication of the year by *Canadian Geographic* magazine! Through words and photography, *Voices for the Watershed* examines the threats the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region is facing and their impact on wildlife and humans. This Wildlands League book also demonstrates that citizen involvement in environmental action can make a real difference. There are contributions from more than 30 well-respected ecologists, writers and photographers across North America, including several CPAWS members.

Excerpts from *Voices for the Watershed*:

"If you want to understand the moods of a watershed, you have to walk its shorelines. You must feel the sand, pebbles, and stones of the beach under your feet. Then you need to walk the riverbanks, pushing through the tangled undergrowth and climbing over the deadfalls that hide the rabbits and grouse. Sometimes you have to get your feet wet."

Michael Keating
(continued on page 15)