

CANADIAN WILDERNESS

A publication of  CPAWS · Fall 2005

the art of conservation

Some things should last forever — page 7

Inside:

CPAWS' Nahanni Campaign

New Parks Update

Caribou in Peril

 **CPAWS**
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Protecting Canada's Wilderness:

Because some things
should last forever

Making Contact

photo **Scott McMann**

National Office

**250 City Centre Avenue, Suite 506
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 6K7**
Telephone: (613) 569-7226
Facsimile: (613) 569-7098
E-mail: info@cpaws.org
Web: www.cpaws.org

Chapters

CPAWS-British Columbia

555 West Georgia Street, Suite 610
Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 1Z6
Telephone: (604) 685-7445
Facsimile: (604) 685-6449
Web: www.cpawsbc.org

CPAWS-Calgary/Banff

1120 1202 Centre St. SE
Calgary, Alberta T2G 5A5
Telephone: (403) 232-6686
Facsimile: (403) 232-6988
Web: www.cpawscalgary.org

CPAWS-Edmonton

P.O. Box 52031
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2T5
Telephone: (780) 432-0967
Facsimile: (780) 439-4913
Web: www.cpaws-edmonton.org

CPAWS-Manitoba

P.O. Box 344
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2H6
Telephone: (204) 949-0782
Facsimile: (204) 949-0783
Web: www.cpawsmb.org

CPAWS-Saskatchewan

Suite 203, 115-2nd Avenue North
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 2B1
Telephone: (306) 955-6197
Facsimile: (306) 665-2128
Web: www.cpaws-sask.org

CPAWS-Northwest Territories

4th Floor, 4921-49th Street
P.O. Box 1934
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 2P4
Telephone: (867) 873-9893
Facsimile: (867) 873-9593
Web: www.cpaws.org/chapters/nwt

CPAWS-Yukon

P.O. Box 31095
211 Main St.
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5P7
Telephone: (867) 393-8080
Facsimile: (867) 393-8081
Web: www.cpawsyukon.com

CPAWS-Montreal

1030 Beaubien est, Bureau 303
Montréal, Québec H2S 1T4
Telephone: (514) 278-SNAP (7627)
Facsimile: (514) 278-3085
Web: www.snapqc.org

CPAWS-Ottawa Valley / Vallée de l'Outaouais

250 City Centre Avenue, Suite 601
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 6K7
Telephone: (613) 232-7297
Facsimile: (613) 232-2030
Web: www.cpaws-ov.org

CPAWS-Wildlands League

380-401 Richmond Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5V 3A8
Telephone: (416) 971-9453
Facsimile: (416) 979-3155
Web: www.wildlandsleague.org

CPAWS-Nova Scotia

1526 Dresden Row, 4th Floor, Unit 3
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3K3
Telephone: (902) 446-4155
Facsimile: (902) 446-4156
Web: www.cpawsns.org

CPAWS-Newfoundland and Labrador

244 Tolt Road
Portugal Cove-St. Philip's
Newfoundland and Labrador A1M 1R2
Telephone: (709) 726-5800
Facsimile: (709) 726-2764
Web: www.cpaws.org/chapters/nl

CPAWS-New Brunswick

180 St. John Street
Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 4A9
Telephone: (506) 452-9902
Web: www.cpawsnb.org

**Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
National Office**

250 City Centre Avenue, Suite 506
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 6K7
Telephone 613.569.7226
Facsimile 613.569.7098
E-mail info@cpaws.org
Web www.cpaws.org

Trustees Emeritus

Dr. Jim Butler
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Corrections from the Spring 2005 issue

The Wildlands League's web site is at
www.wildlandsleague.org
Page 7: The photograph was taken by M. Granskou.
Page 12: the proposed Lowlands park in
Manitoba is almost 4,500 sq. km (not 3,300).
Page 24: The original name of CPAWS was
the National and Provincial Parks Association
of Canada.



photo Cathy Archbould/CPAWS

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Cover: *Wernecke Mountains* by Jane Isakson



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The *Idea* of Wilderness

BY TIMOTHY FEHER

The Art of Conservation

This issue of Canadian Wilderness is dedicated to the “art of conservation.” As we prepared this issue and featured the work of a number of talented artists and their direct experience of wilderness, it occurred to me that something can be learned from the artistic process which can further our “idea of wilderness.”

There are two unique thinking patterns at play during the creation of art. One pattern is the employment of metaphor (making conscious and unconscious associations between things). Metaphor produces a kind of alchemy where “this” becomes “that”; as if two different things are really of each other.

The second pattern is the emotional engagement of an object by the artist. In the artistic process this engagement is usually so consuming that the object and the artist become indistinguishable. The work of the artist becomes the reincarnation of the artist. The object becomes subject through empathy.

These two processes are also dominant in the way that we approach spiritual matters. One of the most ancient philosophical concepts from Vedic literature says in Sanskrit: “Tat Tvam Asi” (you are that) suggesting our perceived separation from the world around us is an illusion.

I recently attended a meeting with a senior federal official who had invited the leaders of a number of conservation organizations to discuss how we could improve our sales pitch for nature and wilderness conservation to the various departments of the federal government. The official stated emphatically that the conservation movement had to strengthen its case if it wanted to attract the attention and commitment of the senior mandarins that pull the

operational strings of government. His position was that senior levels of government were not going to be influenced by the “poetry” of nature and wilderness. Government needed a compelling business case, he said. His statement and use of the term “poetry” was telling.

It told me that there are two roads that we have taken over the past fifty years in communicating the case for conservation. One road attempts to articulate the economic and social benefits of nature conservation to humans. The other road advocates the intrinsic values of nature; its beauty; and its right to just be. These two roads don’t often intersect. And what’s more, they probably suggest a “disconnect” in philosophy.

Yes, of course the conservation case for support needs to rationalize economic and social measures. Humans will always exploit our natural world and so we need a conservation philosophy to temper the scale of that exploitation so that it is more sustainable. This is a case for conservation that stresses long term benefits to humans.

Children's art from the Three Rivers art tour.



Gwen Curry
Yukon Sampler

And yet on the other hand, the only way to realize a vision for large landscape wilderness protection is to recognize the intrinsic value of nature, and allow it to be just left alone.

This is primarily a case for conservation that is not focused on benefits to humans. And because of this, to make this case effectively, one has to engage empathy.

The real art of the conservation movement is to transform human thinking and behavioural patterns to those empathetic ones employed in the artistic process. Humans must see themselves in nature again. We need

to engage nature as subject and not as object. That's the poetry where one heart is joined to another.

Unfortunately, it's a poetry that works in a gallery or in literature, but culture has made it awkward in a boardroom or the "real world". And it's only awkward because we have been losing a common language for describing our existence and experience in nature.

The conservation movement can reinvent that language. But to do so we need a whole new appreciation of the art and technique of values marketing.

Current neuroscience suggests that

80% of human behaviour patterns are driven by unconscious processes. Our choices and behaviours are stimulated more by emotion, association, myths and human narrative than they are by available empirical data. And yet we in the conservation movement are notorious "fact marketers."

Our challenge is to somehow integrate the science and human benefit facts with a poetry that resonates with the heart and creates a deep empathy for the natural wilderness. Such is the art of conservation. ■

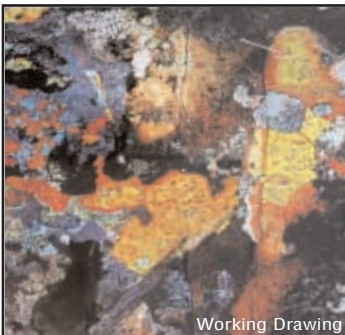
Timothy Feher is the CPAWS National Executive Director.



LAUNCHED!

CPAWS launches new blog

If you haven't visited cpaws.org recently, drop by and visit our new blog: Wilderness Calls (www.cpaws.org/blog). Maintained by CPAWS staff and volunteers, Wilderness Calls is a great way to keep up with CPAWS news and events across the country. Get the inside scoop on conservation!



Snake River Suite A stunning boxed set of fine art prints by nationally known realist painter, Ron Bolt.

Limited edition of 30 sets – only 25 sets offered for sale.

Help shape the future of the Yukon's great Three Rivers wilderness and enjoy its beauty in your own home.

Six 13" x 15" coloured serigraphs pulled at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Nfld., exclusively for this fundraising project.

Presented in a royal blue cloth-bound box bearing the Yukon Territory crest. Includes statements by artist Ron Bolt

and engaging essays on the Three Rivers.

A participant in the 2003 Three Rivers Journey, Ron's works are touring nationally in the "Three Rivers, Wild Waters, Sacred Places" exhibition. Ron is donating half the proceeds to CPAWS-Yukon's conservation work in the Peel watershed.

Available for a limited time. ORDER from www.cpawsyukon.org, e-mail info@cpawsyukon.org

cpawsyukon.org, or call 867.393.8080 x. 1. \$3,000 CDN. GST not included. Two weeks for delivery.

SPECIAL OFFER: Order before Nov. 30, 2005, and receive a copy of CPAWS-Yukon's new full colour coffee table book celebrating the Three Rivers.



CPAWS at work across Canada

Yukon park wins over mining

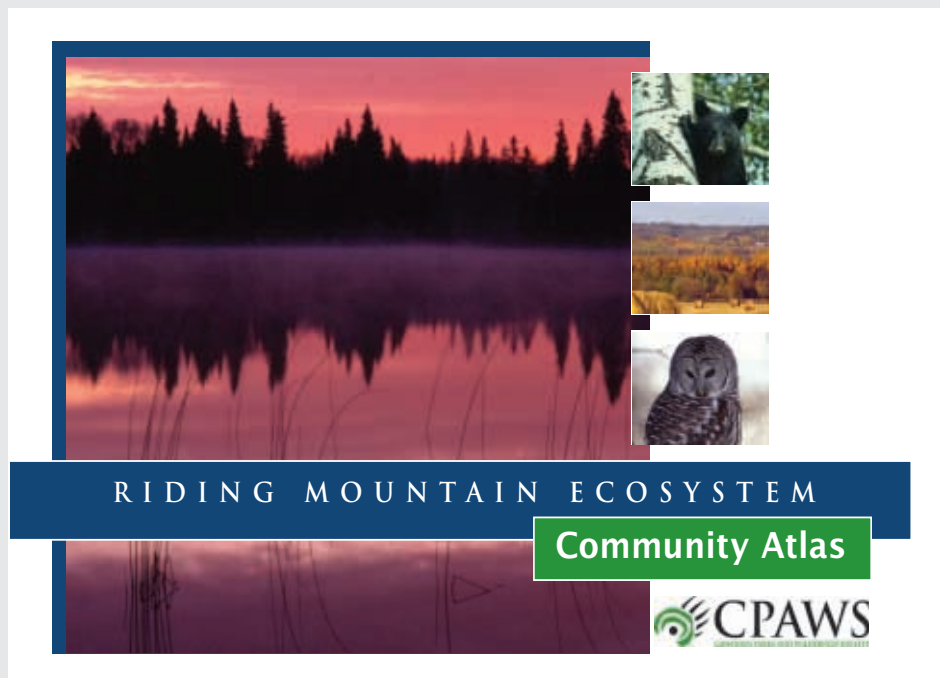
The proposed Kusawa Natural Environment Park, an area whose protection has been strongly supported by CPAWS-Yukon over the last 15 years, is now protected from mineral claim staking and other land dispositions.

This scenic area set in the leeward Coast Mountains west of Whitehorse is 3,112 km². It has been an active park candidate since the start of the Endangered Spaces Campaign in 1989, but the territorial park proposal did not advance until progress was made on land claims negotiations.

The pristine Kusawa Lake watershed is known for its wildlife diversity, including Dall sheep, mountain goats, raptors and grizzly bears. Aquatic species include lake trout, whitefish, grayling and salmon. Lowland areas support a good sample of southwest Yukon boreal forest. Impressive sand dunes and extensive boreal steppe are special ecological features.

Melting snowfields have recently revealed ancient caribou dung deposits and artifacts left there by the people who once hunted the caribou. Today, the long, deep Kusawa Lake and the Takhini River are popular destinations for camping, canoeing, boating, hiking, angling and hunting.

Kusawa Park will be a vital conservation legacy based on many years of First Nations land claims negotiations. Although not yet formally designated as a territorial park, official park status will follow once a management agreement between the Yukon government and the Kwanlin Dun, Carcross-Tagish and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations is concluded. We congratulate all those involved in bringing the park's protection towards a successful conclusion.



Landmark NWT Conservation plan advances

Excitement continues to build in the Mackenzie Valley as CPAWS-NWT and its partners work to establish a network of protected areas in advance of large-scale industrial development, such as the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project. CPAWS-NWT is increasing its fundraising, staffing and volunteer capacities to establish culturally and ecologically important protected areas by 2010. The magnitude of this work in Canada's northern boreal region is globally significant and is setting new standards for conservation work.

CPAWS-NWT is also working with the community of Déline to keep Great Bear Lake "clean and bountiful for all time" through a multi-stakeholder watershed management planning process. Déline Elders have a visionary goal to protect its entire watershed, based on Traditional Knowledge of the lake as the "heart of the land." The work is now being integrated into the upcoming Draft Sahtu Land Use Plan. Great Bear Lake is the ninth largest lake in the world.

CPAWS-Manitoba publishes ecosystem atlas

CPAWS-Manitoba has published a community atlas for the greater ecosystem of Riding Mountain National Park. The atlas focuses on a 13,810 km² area, representing the boundaries of the Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve. The atlas provides common ground for everyone interested in issues affecting the Riding Mountain region and can contribute to decisions that will benefit people, wildlife and the community. Community involvement was critical in the development of the atlas. The atlas includes text, figures, photographs, and a series of maps covering items of interest such as physical geography, human history, landscape changes, wetlands, vegetation, and wildlife. For more information, or to download the atlas, visit www.cpawsemb.org

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada's Voluntary Sector Initiative and ESRI Canada for making this project possible.

Help wanted for new B.C. National Park

The South Okanagan and Similkameen valleys in British Columbia's interior dry plateau, a unique natural region, contain Canada's **only** "pocket desert". This is one of the most endangered ecosystems in the country with one of the highest concentrations of species at risk. It is also home to three grassland ecosystems not yet represented in Canada's national parks system and their associated species at risk—shrub-steppe (cold desert), antelope brush, and the open ponderosa pine and subalpine ecosystems. You can help protect it!

Parks Canada is undertaking a feasibility study to assess whether a national park would be suitable for the area. A national park in the South Okanagan-Similkameen region will provide the highest level of ecological protection to maintain the diversity of habitat and species, enhance the quality of life and protect a part of our natural heritage for future generations. Species such as Burrowing Owls, Sharp-tailed Grouse and the White-tailed Jackrabbits have all but disappeared from the area, proof that additional protection is necessary.

This is a crucial time for you to get involved and show your support for a National Park in the South Okanagan—through letters of support, meeting with your local MLA and MP, joining the South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Network or by visiting the online action Web site www.sosnationalpark.org

CPAWS-Edmonton launches parks program

The ParksWatch program, launched on July 16, is a new program for CPAWS-Edmonton dedicated to restoring, monitoring and ensuring the ecological integrity of the province's protected areas. The program has already begun meeting its goals of

working collaboratively and building a parks support network with the Alberta Government, CPAWS-Calgary/Banff and many other environmental organizations. Our chapter published a brochure entitled "For the Love of Parks" and a bumper sticker. In the fall, we will release a report outlining the current state of the provincial park system. We also hope to add a Citizen Scientist program next year. The chapter's Boreal Campaigns are still working diligently to create new protected areas within the Endangered Foothills Forests and the Athabasca Heartland. For more information, please visit www.cpaws-edmonton.org.

Ontario adopts Wolf Conservation Strategy

The Ottawa Valley chapter of CPAWS has been promoting the idea of an Ontario wolf conservation policy since 1998. In 2002 we filed an application under the province's Environmental Bill of Rights for such a policy. This past July the provincial government announced its first-ever *Strategy for Wolf Conservation in Ontario*. "In principle, the new strategy illustrates a fundamental positive change in attitude towards Ontario's two wolf species," said CPAWS-Ottawa Valley Executive Director Jean Langlois, "but in practice, more work is needed if wolves are truly to be protected in this province." The new strategy builds on the chapter's successful campaign for a permanent buffer zone to protect wolves around Algonquin Park.

Read more at www.cpaws-ov.org/algonquinwolves

CPAWS-Montreal opposes condos

Mont Orford Park in Estrie, Quebec, was created with private land donations in the 1930s under the condition that the land never be developed. Yet, the owner of Mont Orford ski hill, brandishing the argument that the

tourist attraction is no longer profitable, wants to obtain lots at the base of the mountain to build over 1,000 condos, most in the Park. CPAWS has opposed the project at the Bureau for Public Hearings on the Environment (BAPE) stating that it contravenes the Quebec Parks Act, which declares that the first objective of a park is "conservation and **permanent** protection" of a natural site. We believe that "permanent" protection does not mean "until the next development project comes along". This project presents a dangerous precedent for all parks in Quebec. CPAWS is mobilizing the public so that a clear message is sent to the minister responsible for parks. The minister should announce a decision on the project soon.

CPAWS-New Brunswick Works on Restigouche

CPAWS-NB, in partnership with ecotourism operator Arpin Canoe Restigouche, is establishing the *Friends of Restigouche*—people who care about conservation of habitat around the wild rivers, steep ravines and misty-green Northern Appalachian mountains in north-western New Brunswick. *Friends of Restigouche* members will receive special notices about activities, tours and events, and opportunities to take action to help conserve this spectacular part of New Brunswick. If you are interesting in being involved, please contact CPAWS-NB at www.cpawsnb.org

Nova Scotia celebrates as 8,000 hectares protected

Earlier this year, CPAWS-NS was pleased to be at Province House for the Premier's official announcement of the designation of Gully Lake and James River-Eigg Mountain under the Wilderness Areas Protection Act. These two new wilderness areas help to address the lack of wilderness protection in the northern mainland



region of the province. Highlights of the ecological values that are now better protected include undisturbed Acadian forests, a spawning river for the endangered Atlantic Salmon, and vital habitat for the endangered mainland Moose. These are the first Wilderness Area designations since the original 31 sites were established in 1998. The new designations will protect 8,000 hectares of wildlands in Nova Scotia.

CPAWS-Newfoundland and Labrador starts marine campaign

CPAWS-NL is beginning a Marine Protected Areas Education Campaign in light of the federal government's announcement of 11 new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Canada, three of which are in Newfoundland and Labrador (Leading Tickles, Eastport and Gilbert Bay). In Newfoundland and Labrador, there are still quite a few misconceptions as to what a MPA is, and the varying levels of restrictions placed on these areas. The MPA Education Campaign aims to dispel any misconceptions and increase public awareness and support of these critical areas. We are currently in the planning stages for this project and are actively

seeking funding.

The Assessment of the Economic Costs and Benefits of Protected Areas in Newfoundland and Labrador Project, begun in January 2005 is now complete. We implemented this program in Butterpot Provincial Park, and it has successfully shown that protected areas do in fact provide economic benefit to the province in addition to environmental and community benefits. Previously in this province, it was often thought that protected areas were an impediment to economic growth due to the restrictions on certain activities within their boundaries. Major funding for this project was provided by Canadian Boreal Initiative, with the cooperation of Parks and Natural Areas Division, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

CPAWS-Calgary/Banff releases Castle report

In August, CPAWS Calgary/Banff Chapter released the document *Selected Ecological Resources of Alberta's Castle Carbondale: A Synopsis of Current Knowledge*. After years of disagreement over the state of the health of the Castle Region

of southwest Alberta, CPAWS and Shell Canada embarked on a project to synthesize the current science on key species in the Castle region. The two parties engaged Martin Jalkotzy of ARC Wildlife Services to lead a team of experts to investigate the health of the region across several suites of focal species.

Jalkotzy, the document's principle author, concludes that the Castle region is a wildland of national significance because of its exceptional biodiversity and importance to regional connectivity for wildlife.

Jalkotzy also concludes the future of the Castle's gems, such as its grizzly bear, bull trout, and rich vegetation populations, is bleak if action is not taken. Noting the warnings of the Alberta government's own tribunals, the author describes the Castle as being managed with an outdated management plan that is incapable of addressing the cumulative human effects on the region.

CPAWS and several other ENGOs have called upon the Alberta Government to enact legislated Protection of the Castle for several decades. Protection of this area remains the most viable tool for addressing the declines outlined in the Synopsis and safeguarding this treasured landscape for all Albertans. CPAWS is currently engaged in outreach with using the Synopsis to gain support for legislated protection as part of a sustainable future for the region.

To learn more please visit:
<http://www.cpawscalgary.org/castle/ecological-resource-report.html>



Art and Literature to Highlight Yukon's Spectacular Three Rivers

Ode to the Wind, by Joyce Majiski
photo **Cathy Archbould/CPAWS**

BY JURI PEEPRE

This fall, CPAWS-Yukon will present a conservation message through art and literature, created by some of our country's most renowned artists and writers about an immense boreal mountain wilderness unknown to the majority of Canadians.

Three Rivers: wild waters, sacred places, a national touring art exhibit, and Three Rivers: The Yukon's Great Boreal Wilderness (Harbour Publishing, Oct. 2005) feature the remote wild rivers—the Wind, Snake and Bonnet Plume in the Yukon (see touring schedule on page 8).

The art exhibit includes contributions from Joyce Majiski and Jane Isakson from the Yukon, Marlene Creates from Newfoundland, Haruko Okano and Gwen Curry from B.C., and three Ontario artists: Ron Bolt, Ojibway artist Michael Belmore, and

Jose Mansilla-Miranda, all of whom participated in 2003 canoe trips hosted by CPAWS-Yukon along the three rivers.

These three rivers, along with their sister tributaries the Hart, Blackstone and Ogilvie, flow through the Peel River basin in the stunning Selwyn and Wernecke Mountains of the northern Yukon.

In sponsoring these artistic endeavors, our goal was to enable artists and writers to express in their own ways the value of this wild and mystic northern landscape, one that still sustains a full suite of free-ranging wildlife and ancient aboriginal trails. This engaging show challenges the way we perceive the links between art and nature. It will compel many, who may never have connected art with conservation, to re-think their notions about our remaining northern wilderness.

The book, a photographic and literary anthology assembled by Juri Peepre and Sarah Locke, highlights threats to the watersheds' integrity. It features work by noted Canadian photographer Courtney Milne and the Yukon's Marten Berkman and Fritz Mueller, along with essays and stories by well-known writers such as Margaret Atwood, John Ralston Saul, Richard Nelson and Brian Brett.

Together, the art exhibition, photographic and literary anthology introduce and celebrate a remarkable place in northern Canada, an endangered boreal landscape at the edge of the western arctic. They pose questions and set out a conservation vision to help prevent the imminent decline of the North's wild heart. ■

Juri Peepre is a Conservation Consultant for CPAWS-Yukon.



Three Rivers Tour Schedule

September 6 – December 2, 2005
Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery
Victoria, British Columbia

February 4 – April 2, 2006
Kelowna Art Gallery
Kelowna, British Columbia

May 19 – July 2, 2006
Art Gallery of Peterborough
Peterborough, Ontario



A. Jane Isakson
Bonnet Plume Range: Fragments
 Acrylic on canvas.
 66" wide x 66" high
 2004

C. Michael Belmore
Tendency
 Copper and steel.
 36" wide x 48" high x 24" deep
 2004



B. Jose Mansila-Miranda
LUX: Alpha, Omega, Spine
 Detail of triptych: oil, acrylic, latex, 18 carat gold
 enamel on canvas.
 Overall dimension: 178" wide x 84" high
 2004

D. Gwen Curry
Yukon Sampler
 Painting on paper, powder-coated aluminum,
 stainless wire, metal clips.
 52" wide x 80" high x 3" deep
 2004

The **Wind, Snake** and **Bonnet Plume Rivers** lie within the traditional territory of the Nacho Nyak Dun and Tetl'it Gwich'in First Nations. For generations, they were sustained by the plants, fish and wildlife of this region, traversing its valleys and mountains on a network of travel and trade routes. Fishing, hunting and trapping are still important to the way of life in the region.

Today the wilderness of the Peel basin serves as a vital benchmark of untamed nature. Yukon people and visitors from around the world also value the watershed as a premiere destination for canoeing, backcountry travel, hunting, photography, education and scientific research. However, just as this vast area slowly begins to gain the recognition that it deserves, plans for development are already compromising its future.

Canada's North, including the Peel watershed, is vulnerable to the continental thirst for hydrocarbon energy, including new development schemes for oil and natural gas, pipelines, coal and coal-bed methane. Others have dreamed of building roads and rails to extract iron ore, copper and other metals from the remote mountains. The Yukon government promotes all this before citizens have had a chance to consider the watershed's future – through land use planning. Our governments seem especially eager to industrialize the Peel ahead of setting aside conservation lands. Pre-emptive resource development would have an overwhelming impact on the Peel watershed and the ecological health of its major tributaries. After the heavy machinery is gone and tracts of land laid waste, what future would be left for the people and communities in the North?

During the elders' gathering on the banks of the Peel River, Elaine Alexie, on behalf of Gwich'in youth, said:

"We, the youth of the Tetl'it Gwich'in, a generation of tomorrow, are here today to express our profound concern for the well-being of our sacred and ancestral lands within the Peel River watershed and our right to maintain our cultural way of life."

How does extinction arrive in Canada's Boreal Forest?

BY TIM GRAY

At almost six million square kilometres, Canada's boreal forest is a big place with room for both people and wildlife. So why are we having so much trouble finding a place for woodland caribou, a species officially at risk in all parts of Canada except Newfoundland?

The answer lies in what they need to survive and what plans our leaders have for the future of the species.

These secretive animals require large areas of intact coniferous forest both to find food sources like lichens, readily found only in old forests, and for protection from predators. Research in Alberta, for example, has shown that woodland caribou move to forests that are 150 years old or older during hard winters.

When development, like logging, oil-and-gas seismic lines or mining, opens up areas of large, intact forest, it becomes easier for predators like wolves to find caribou. As well, deer and moose populations often increase in response to the change to younger forest after logging and the greater availability of young plants for browsing. Increased deer and moose populations often lead to increases in predator populations, which undermines the caribou's survival strategy. In addition, deer and moose are carriers of a neurological condition that is fatal to caribou.

As a result of these factors, the natural habitat range for caribou has shrunk by almost 50% over the last century. While once Canadians could see this majestic animal in the Maritimes, Ontario's Algonquin Park and southern BC, we have now pushed woodland caribou into a corner — our remaining intact boreal forests — with nowhere left to move.

On the human side, our federal and provincial governments have committed to doing something about the loss

photo Bruce Peterson

of woodland caribou through the development of recovery plans under endangered species legislation.

The recent release of the Alberta Woodland Recovery Plan provides a great glimpse into how this is being done. Alberta is worth watching because it is the first province to complete a plan where woodland caribou populations are known to be in trouble (classified as *threatened* under the Alberta Wildlife Act).

The plan starts hopefully with a statement of three conservation-focused goals. They are:

1) *achieving self-sustaining woodland caribou herds*; 2) *maintaining the distribution of caribou in Alberta*; and 3) *ensuring habitat requirements are met for woodland caribou over the long-term throughout caribou ranges in the province*. This all sounds great and would make one think that the plan would involve two main components...stopping development in the places where caribou are found now (especially for herds known to be critically endangered) and making plans to repair their habitat where it has been degraded so they can return.

This hope is sustained when one starts to read the letter by Sustainable

Resource Development Minister David Coumts attached to the Recovery Plan. After thanking the contributors to the plan and outlining some of the methods to conserve caribou he states that: “the government will support reasonable efforts to preserve all caribou herds in the province, realizing that this may not be possible in all instances”.

But later on, it becomes clear what “reasonable efforts” mean to the Minister. At the bottom of page two he drops a bombshell: “the government will not, however, consider applying industrial moratoria”.

This means that the Alberta government *will* consider killing wolves, penning pregnant females, and locating large clearcuts in remaining caribou habitat, but it *will not* consider stopping oil and gas development, roads, or clearcuts anywhere in caribou range, even temporarily or where research tells us that the caribou will disappear if these activities continue.

Unfortunately, this is how extinction

Caribou in Alberta



■ Historic Range

■ Present Range

arrives in the 21st century in Canada's boreal. Not through the blind, greedy hunting that wiped out the passenger pigeon, not through the unknowing use of DDT that almost eliminated peregrine falcons, but rather by deliberate action.

The Alberta government knows exactly what is wiping out woodland caribou and what needs to be done to stop and reverse it. It has taken the time to bring scientists together to develop a strategy. It is boldly declaring that it will *not* do what is clearly necessary to save the species.

CPAWS will be helping you to tell the government of Alberta that you will not sit by while it plans for the extinction of woodland caribou. Please join us. (*For the complete text of the letter mentioned in this article, please visit our Little Smoky caribou action centre at www.cpaaws.org/action/*)

Tim Gray is CPAWS' National Director of Conservation.

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The real value of the Nahanni

Excerpts from a speech by Justin Trudeau at Celebrate the Wild Nahanni at the National Library in Ottawa, May 11, 2005. Justin Trudeau visited the river made famous by his father on a CPAWS' Boreal Rendezvous trip in July 2003. He will be speaking again this fall in Toronto as part of CPAWS' national Nahanni Forever tour. See page 13 for more details.

The Nahanni river is one of those amazing natural wonders that make you feel extraordinarily privileged just to be there. When I was on the river, though I was with a group of people I felt alone with it. In the wilderness, I am often awed and humbled by a sense of scale, simply by witnessing something that is so much more important than any of us.

When I get out into places like the Nahanni, standing up on top of Virginia Falls, paddling through the oh-so-poetically named First Canyon, Second Canyon, Third Canyon, Fourth Canyon—and in reverse order because they were named on the way up—then I remember that I don't really matter at all, that I'm just passing through, that we're not inheriting this world from our fathers, we're borrowing it from our children and grandchildren.

About Canadian Zinc's proposed zinc mine at Prairie Creek, in the South Nahanni watershed

The fact of the matter is the proposed mine is about big business. It is about contributing to this great economic system that we've built up around us, in which we consume rapaciously. We are living in a way that pays no attention to the fact that we're running out of space and resources. Where we are living as if there will be no tomorrow. Where we aren't thinking about two, three, four generations from now.

What we need to do

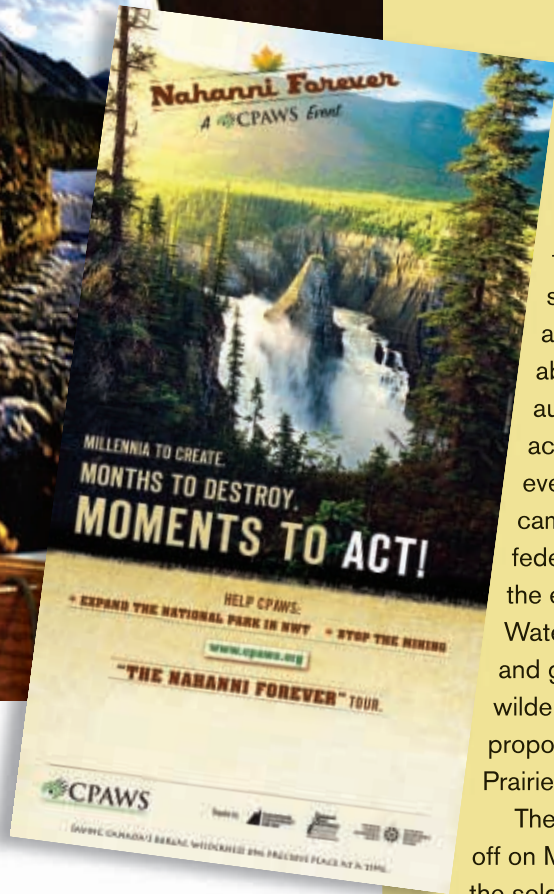
The society we live in is profoundly lost, based on ego and vanity and short-sighted gratification. We have to start changing it and fast, because if we don't, protecting the Nahanni will be the least of our worries. We need, as

citizens, to start demanding more. We need our governments, our individuals, our companies, our representatives, our societies, everyone, to step up, step forward and start acting with vision and responsibility. If we don't do it now, we won't have a chance to do it later.

This idea that what is good for the North and its peoples is mineral extraction and resource development is changing. What we need to do is make the government understand that that's not what we consider wealth. That there are some places that shouldn't be dug up, poisoned, stripped, sullied, messed up in ways that we don't even fully understand right now.

The work that my father started 30 years ago to try to prevent a dam from being built was just the very beginning.

Nahanni Forever – coming this fall to a city near you!



Right now, we have a small window where we can finish the job, where we can do what the native peoples want, what Parks Canada wants, what anyone who's ever paddled the Nahanni wants. We can do what the grizzly bears want, even though they don't know it and they'll probably bite you if you try to explain it to them.

We, as citizens of this society, have the duty to tell our elected representatives, who, in their way, think they are doing the right thing by protecting our rights to minerals in the South Nahanni watershed, that they are, in fact, doing the wrong thing. Save the Nahanni itself, please: what may be underground is certainly not worth more than what's above it. ■

Justin Trudeau is a strong advocate for Canada's wilderness and a passionate canoeist.

CPAWS is hosting a national tour this fall on the spectacular Nahanni wilderness in Canada's Northwest Territories that will bring evenings of stunning images, science and a passionate message about the Nahanni to audiences in major cities across the country. These events are part of our campaign to convince the federal government to protect the entire South Nahanni Watershed – a magnificent and globally significant boreal wilderness that is threatened by proposed mining projects like the Prairie Creek Mine.

The public campaign kicked off on May 11th in Ottawa where the sold-out crowd was awed by the stories and strong appeal for action delivered by speakers including Dehcho First Nations Grand Chief Herb Norwegian, Becky Mason, Justin Trudeau, scientists Derek Ford and John Weaver, and event host Harvey Locke, CPAWS conservation advisor.

Many of these speakers and other prominent Canadians will be participating in events, so be sure to check out our website for the latest updates.

Find out when the Nahanni is coming to your city! See list for a full listing of dates and cities.

Can't wait? You can help protect the entire South Nahanni Watershed right now!

Visit our online Action Centre at www.cpaws.org and join CPAWS' Nahanni Forever campaign.

Nahanni Forever

National tour dates

November 2005, January 2006

November

- 7 Toronto, ON
- 15 Yellowknife, NT
- 16 Edmonton, AB
- 18 Winnipeg, MB

Fraser Lectureship in Northern Studies presented by CPAWS and RCGS

- 21 Kingston, ON
- 22 Hamilton, ON
- 23 Waterloo, ON
- 24 London, ON
- 25 Peterborough, ON
- 29 Halifax, NS
- 30 Fredericton, NB

December

- 1 Montreal, QC

January

- 15 Whitehorse, YK
- 16 Victoria, BC
- 17 Vancouver, BC
- 18 Saskatoon, SK
- 19 Calgary, AB

Thanks to:



For over 20 years, Neil Hartling has been introducing visitors to Canada's beautiful northern rivers. His company, Nahanni River Adventures, has been a generous supporter of CPAWS in our efforts to protect the Nahanni.



Paddling the Nahanni: A Tour Guide's View



How has your experience in the north informed your views on conservation?

Living in the north, and traveling through the most remote reaches, reveals the constant local development pressures. I have witnessed the boom of a massive natural gas development that temporarily employed an entire community and is now run by three technicians from the south. I see the feeding frenzy of businesses that line up to serve the diamond mines in Yellowknife. I live among the many Whitehorse businesses that have been gutted by the likes of Wal-Mart and now pray daily for a development—anything—as long as it is big, and lasts long enough to revitalize their assets enough for them to cash out.

Do trip participants come away from your tours with a heightened interest in northern conservation?

Our guests go home with three

important perspectives. The obvious is inspiration—each of the rivers we tour has indisputable world-class qualities that never fail to impress. During their trip, the participants expand their geographical awareness considerably and gain an appreciation of the north you can only achieve by being here. In addition, they learn of local issues and witness the fine balance that exists between conservation and expansion.

CPAWS is spearheading a campaign to protect the entire South Nahanni watershed and stop a proposed mine. What are your thoughts on the current and proposed boundaries of the national park reserve?

Best summed up by Trudeau's initial response when shown the proposed Park boundary: "That's it?!" He was apparently assured by the bureaucrats of the day, that it was "just a start" and could be expanded in time. The current boundary was a temporary stopgap measure to save the canyons and Virginia Falls from hydroelectric development. The planners of the day had recommended the boundary that we are now asking for.

What's the one thing people talk most about after experiencing a journey down the South Nahanni River?

The most frequent comment I hear from paddlers coming off the Nahanni is how the experience exceeded their wildest expectations. "Why didn't you tell us it was so fantastic?" "Spectacular—how come you didn't mention _____?" (*Add any of 100 phenomena*). Of course the other frequent comment is "That was fantastic—where do we go next?"

How does ecotourism support conservation work, and vice versa?

I prefer to use the terms "eco/adventure" and "sustainable tourism". The two can go hand in hand, but are most effective when there is a well thought out and executed strategy to achieve these ends. A laissez-faire approach yields spotty results. The bottom line is that people will protect what they love. Canada is becoming an increasingly urbanized society and it is imperative that we continue to create advocates for our remote wild places. Visit Nahanni River Adventures at www.Nahanni.com



Working Towards a National Network of Marine Protected Areas

photo Peter Cook

BY KAREN BLINKHORN

CPAWS chapters on all three of Canada's coasts are continuing to work to make sure that the Government of Canada lives up to its international commitments to establish a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) by 2012.

With the passage of this year's federal budget, we expect that over \$28 million allocated under the Oceans Action Plan will help to ensure progress on MPAs and integrated planning processes on all of Canada's coasts. This budget allocation represents the first ever funding under Canada's Oceans Act, passed in 1997.

In June the federal Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans announced the final public consultation stage to establish four new MPAs off of Canada's Atlantic coast. The establishment of these MPAs—Basin Head (Prince Edward Island), Musquash Estuary (New Brunswick), Gilbert Bay (Newfoundland and Labrador) and Eastport (Newfoundland and Labrador)—would help protect ocean health, habitat, and wildlife and benefit the local communities and economies

that depend on them.

The federal government also announced a Marine Protected Areas Strategy for Canada. This agreement is an important step towards safeguarding Canada's oceans for all time. Meanwhile, CPAWS would like to see immediate action to protect Canada's marine ecosystems.

"All levels of government need to work together to develop action plans for MPA networks on each of Canada's coasts," says Sabine Jessen, Conservation Director of CPAWS-BC.

These plans should include concrete actions, timelines and immediate interim protection for key areas like the globally unique Hecate Strait glass sponge reefs in British Columbia, and aggregations of deep sea corals on both the east and west coasts. "Without this immediate protection,"

Jessen says, "these areas will suffer further damage and degradation."

Meanwhile, Parks Canada is continuing work on national marine

conservation area (NMCA) feasibility studies for the waters around the Magdalen Islands, Quebec and the Southern Strait of Georgia, B.C.

CPAWS chapters on all three of Canada's coasts are continuing to work to make sure that the Government of Canada lives up to its international commitments to establish a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) by 2012.

conservation area (NMCA) feasibility studies for the waters around the Magdalen Islands, Quebec and the Southern Strait of Georgia, B.C.

In the Magdalen Islands the government is working with a local advisory committee and other stakeholders to identify potential boundaries for an NMCA. Stakeholder communication and

consultations will continue throughout the year. ■

Karen Blinkhorn is Communications Coordinator for CPAWS-British Columbia.



photo Karel van Duyse

A wild watershed needs protection

Dumoine

BY JEAN LANGLOIS

To paddle down the Dumoine River is to experience the wild landscape that once covered a vast region of southwestern Quebec. From its headwaters in the boreal spruce forest of La Vérendrye wildlife reserve, the Dumoine River flows southward through lakes, rapids, and waterfalls, making its way through a remote but threatened transitional forest landscape.

Ancient pines tower above the forest canopy and steep cliffs overlook the Dumoine before it yields its water to the Ottawa River just 200 kilometres northwest of the urban centre of Gatineau-Ottawa.

The Dumoine is the only river in southern Quebec to still make its entire journey free of dams.

The Dumoine River Watershed encompasses over 4,400 square kilometres (1,100,000 acres) in the

Outaouais and Temiscamingue regions. This land is home to a complete community of native wildlife species including wolves, bear, and lynx, as well as Quebec's largest remnant of intact southern boreal forest. It forms a continentally significant landscape connection, linking the boreal forest in the north to Algonquin Park in Ontario, which is in turn linked to the Appalachian Mountains in the

U.S. through the Algonquin to Adirondacks (A2A) landscape. This vast north-south linkage of natural habitat is of critical importance to many wildlife species, especially

in the face of global climate change and resources overexploitation.

The Threats

Industrial activities threaten the Dumoine. There are active logging licenses in the watershed, and

Hydro-Quebec has identified the Dumoine River as a potential site for a hydroelectric dam. Mineral exploration has not yet reached this watershed, but continues to push deeper into the region. These activities have degraded every other watershed in the region. It is time to act now, to protect what little remains!

The Solution

The Dumoine watershed offers the best opportunity we will ever have to protect a large forest ecosystem for future generations in southwestern Quebec. This is one of the main conclusions of a report published in July 2005 by the Ottawa Valley chapter of CPAWS (available at www.dumoine.ca). In the report CPAWS identifies 14 criteria for an adequate protected areas network, based on conservation science and our practical experience. Using these criteria the report evaluates over 140 proposed protected areas, that were identified in a series of community workshops organized by CPAWS. According to this analysis, the Dumoine

What you can do

Help us protect the last wild watershed in southern Quebec.

Visit www.dumoine.ca to learn more.

Please take action today!



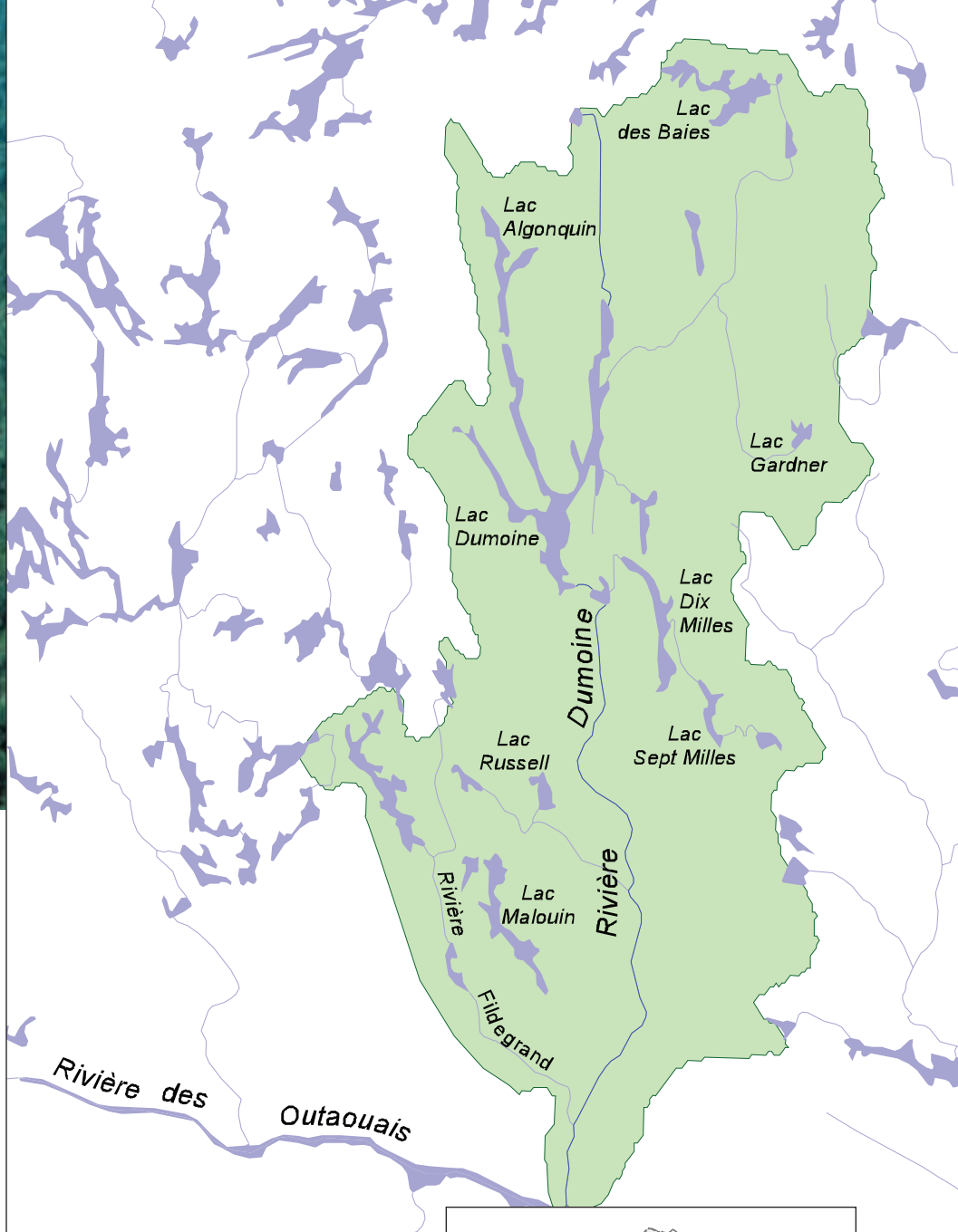
watershed is by far the most essential proposal in the development of an adequate protected areas network in the region.

The Opportunity

Through the Quebec Protected Areas Strategy (QPAS) announced in 2000, the Quebec government committed to protect 8% of the province's land by 2005. The objective has since been delayed to 2007, and barely 3% has so far been permanently protected from industrial exploitation. In the Outaouais region less than 0.2% is legally protected. The government has much work to do to keep its promise.

The Quebec government has the power to keep the Dumoine watershed wild forever, and the QPAS gives them the opportunity to do so as soon as this fall. But this will only happen if people like you take action to demonstrate your support for protecting the Dumoine watershed. ■

Jean Langlois was the Executive Director of CPAWS-Ottawa Valley chapter until September 2005.



Manitoba Lowlands National Park Struggles to be Born

BY KRISTA SCOTT

For over a decade, CPAWS-Manitoba has been working towards the establishment of a new national park in the Manitoba Lowlands natural region.

Significant progress was made in March 2004, when the federal and provincial governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing to establish the park by May 2005, and released a new map of proposed boundaries, very close to those advocated by CPAWS.

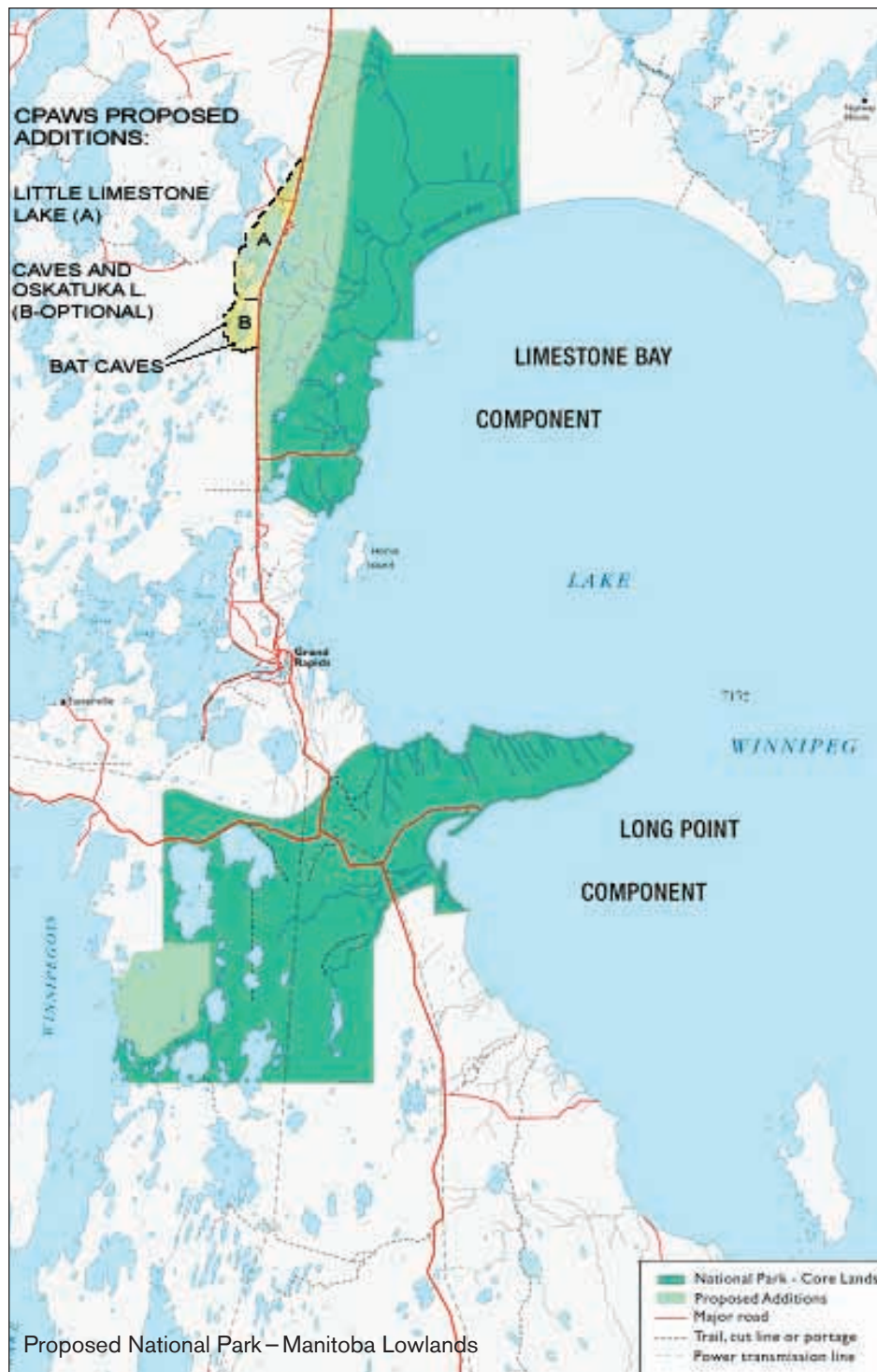
The governments' deadlines, however, have come and gone and the park establishment process is moving at a snail's pace.

With frontage on two of the world's largest freshwater lakes, the area at stake contains magnificent sand beaches, the longest freshwater sand spit in Canada, an abundance of wetlands, mixed boreal forest, spectacular limestone cliffs, and a unique marl lake that changes colour with the air temperature.

Creating a national park is complex. Full support from local First Nations and communities is critical to the creation of the park. Both levels of government need to demonstrate the kind of leadership necessary to address issues raised by local communities and fulfill the commitments made to all Canadians.

All the facts are known about the proposed park. All the players are identified and know their interests. It's now time for them to sit down together, bargain in good faith, and create a legacy for future generations.

Decision makers need to know that Canadians support the creation of a new national park in the Manitoba Lowlands with the best possible ecological



boundaries. You can help make it happen! Visit www.cpawsmb.org for more information, to take action, and to view our online video, *A National Park Struggles to be Born*.

Krista Scott is the Executive Director of CPAWS-Manitoba.

Visit our Manitoba Lowlands action centre at cpaws.org/action/!



Diamond mining *is forever*

photo Evan Ferrari/CPAWS Wildlands League

BY JANET SUMNER

At CPAWS-Wildlands, we're setting our sites on a new target in our efforts to save Ontario's woodland caribou – the massive open-pit Victor Diamond Mine proposed by De Beers in north-eastern Ontario, on James Bay.

To save Ontario's endangered woodland caribou, we're calling for a whole new approach for proposed industrial developments like diamond mines, forestry and energy projects. In the case of the Victor Mine, we're asking the government to conduct an environmental assessment before the project is approved. This is part of our larger campaign to convince the Premier to protect at least one half of Ontario's remaining intact boreal – so that the woodland caribou can roam free forever.

The location for the proposed

mine is intact wilderness. It supports abundant wildlife such as caribou, healthy fisheries, clean water, and sustains the traditional activities of First Nations.

If the mine goes ahead as planned, its ecological footprint would be up to 260,000 hectares – an area four times the size of Toronto. The pit itself would be 220 metres deep and one to two kilometres wide.

In a region that is as much water as land, De Beers would pump 100,000 cubic metres of salty water, an amount equal to 40 Olympic-sized swimming pools, into the freshwater of the Attawapiskat River.

This land they propose to permanently alter is a nationally significant geological feature called a karst, which experts describe as the "best developed and most extensive karst topography in Ontario." Karst is

porous, like a sponge. And after drying out this sponge-like landscape, the mine operators would pile, crush and dump out 2.5 million tonnes of rock each year. Over the lifetime of the mine, we estimate that nearly 30 million tonnes of rock would be dug up and could leach chemicals, such as acids, into the surrounding water.

Without a change in plans for the mine, the local caribou population will become extinct.

Please support our call to the Ontario government for a full environmental assessment of the proposed De Beers mine, and comprehensive land use planning for all of Ontario's intact boreal region. Visit www.wildlandsleague.org to find out how.

Visit the James Bay action centre at cpaws.org/action!

Janet Sumner is Executive Director of CPAWS-Wildlands.

POSTCARDS FROM

Saskatchewan's

In June and July 2005, staff and supporters of CPAWS-Saskatchewan participated in an 18-day canoe race on the Churchill River to celebrate Saskatchewan's Centennial. The race took participants through some of the most fragile northern wilderness in the province.



Sunday, June 19
James Raffan, noted author

(Today) was an absolutely crazy day... Before the first heat had even begun, a team from the RCMP—the “Red Coat Rapid Runners” –had upset into the fast-flowing waters of the North Saskatchewan River... But, true to admonishments from the race organizers the night before, competition was instantly set aside for safety as other teams paddled close to help the Mounties to right their boat, empty it, and get back into the race. We placed well out of the top-three (who would go on to the final) in our heat, which was exactly where we wanted to be, given that there was much last-minute packing still to be done to get the trailer loaded, the rented van packed, and lists checked and rechecked before heading north to Laloche – and besides, with over a thousand kilometres yet to go, we didn’t want to show off or peak too early. Consensus amongst the team was that there would be plenty of time to shine – slow and steady finishes the race!

Boreal



Monday, June 20 **Laurel Archer, wilderness guide**

We started June 20th with a bang! There were huge waves on Lac La Loche – so much so that I was unable to contact Sheila Coles at CBC radio. The pitching was pretty severe, but the surfing was great!

Winds and winds and we whined and whined: fifty-six kilometres of wind and whining. And then a set of small rapids that took the gel off most boat bottoms. The last leg of our 89-km day was across Peter Pond Lake – often a scary lake – but the weather was good to us.

We are in 20th place right now of 30 teams. Solomon Carriere and some of the best canoe racers in North America are paddling across northern Saskatchewan along with many other paddlers from all over the North and Saskatchewan as well as exotic Team Scotland – warmly welcomed by the local people in each community. They even have their own piper.

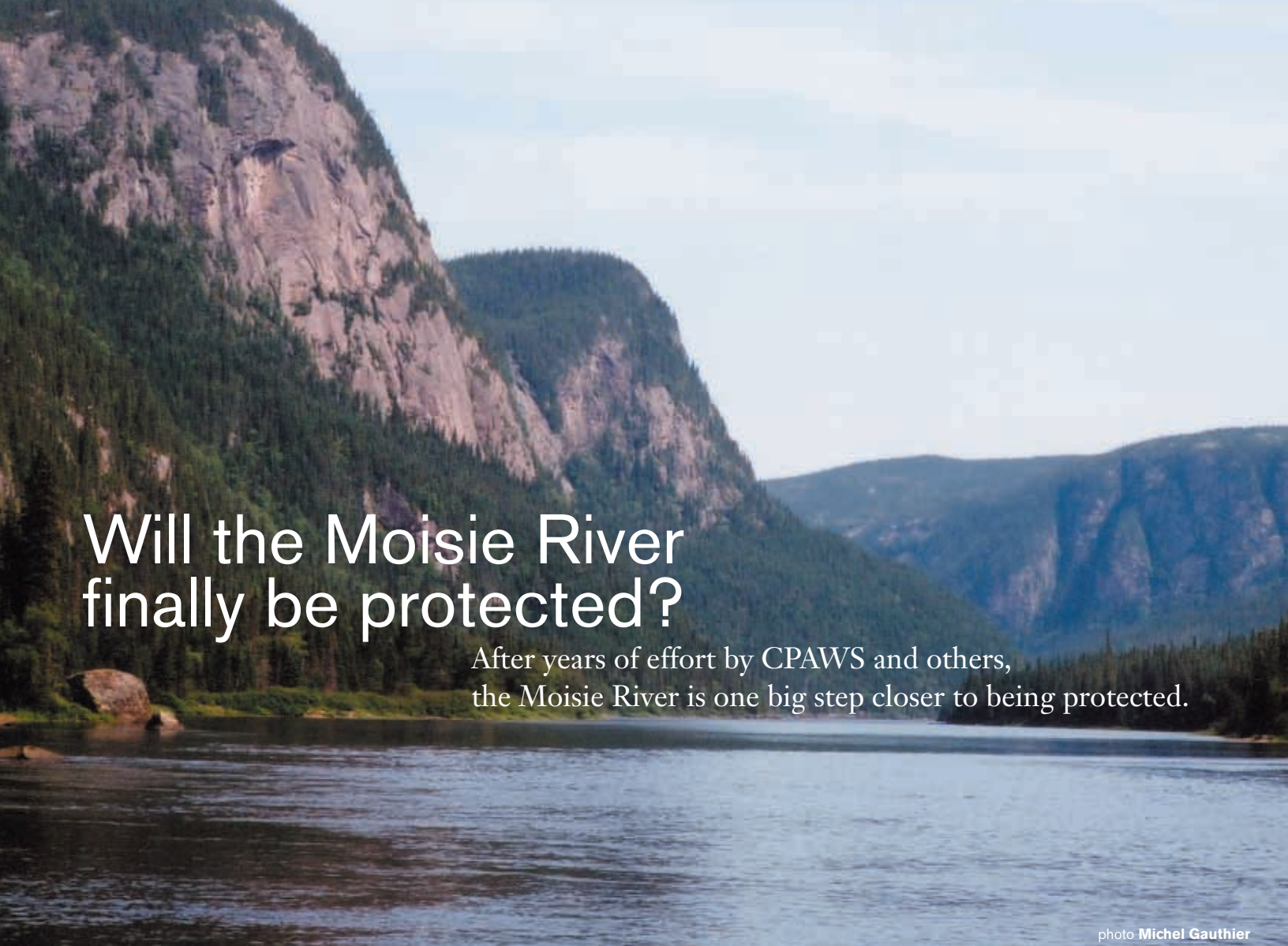
Let's hope this wilderness stays the same for the next hundred years.

The CPAWS team rowed to a solid 23rd place finish. Read about the rest of the race at the CPAWS blog: www.cpaws.org/blog, and see the Canoe Quest results at www.saskatchewancentennialcanoequest.info



Laurel Archer and James Raffan are patrons and supporters of CPAWS' Boreal Campaign.

Visit the Chuchill River action centre at cpaws.org/action/



Will the Moisie River finally be protected?

After years of effort by CPAWS and others, the Moisie River is one big step closer to being protected.

photo Michel Gauthier

BY JEAN-FRANÇOIS GAGNON

The Moisie is the splendid Quebec river that was chosen to represent eastern Canada during CPAWS' Boreal Rendezvous river trips of 2003. This North Shore jewel, known as the "Nahanni of the east," is recognized as both a mythical paddling destination and THE river for Atlantic Salmon. Marc Déry, Florent Vollant, Sarah Harmer and several other folks who joined the Boreal Rendezvous team for the river expedition have attested to its magic.

Since the early 1980s, citizens and organizations, both local and national, have worked to protect this splendid river from Hydro-Quebec's ravenous appetite. As a result, the public utility

had to reconsider its plans for diverting the natural water flows. But while Hydro-Quebec stepped back, other industries still covet the river basin, particularly the forestry sector.

During the last few months, we've reached another significant milestone in our efforts to permanently protect the Moisie River. Public consultations are under way in various North Shore municipalities about creating protected areas to conserve both marine environments and biodiversity. CPAWS is actively involved in the debate. Our goal is to promote the preservation of the entire Moisie river basin, so that this precious salmon habitat and its massive old-growth forests—home to Quebec's at-risk population of Woodland

Caribou—will thrive forever.

Along with our partners, we are recommending the immediate protection of certain areas as priority wildlife habitat. It's important that members of the public actively demonstrate their support for the creation of a large protected area. We are inviting members to communicate with their representative in the Quebec legislature to let them know that the entire Moisie river basin needs to be protected. For more information, please visit www.snapqc.org

Jean-François Gagnon is the Executive Director of CPAWS-Montreal, known in French as SNAP-Montreal.

Volunteers

CPAWS volunteers are at the heart of our mission. In this issue, we spotlight Peter Zimmerman, a volunteer with CPAWS-Calgary/Banff.

BY MELANIE BROWN

Peter Zimmerman's involvement with CPAWS began in a rather ironic way. He worked for years in the oil and gas industry. When the company that he worked for was being sued, Peter found the love of Willmore Wilderness Park as common ground with Harvey Locke, the environmental lawyer for the plaintiff. It turned out that Harvey's wife, Wendy Francis, was the conservation director of the Calgary/Banff chapter of CPAWS at the time. Although Peter was already a supporter of several environmental non-profits, he felt that CPAWS' mission and approach to conservation best suited his own convictions so he became an active member. Peter describes his motivation to become involved with CPAWS as, "I always had a great love of mountain parks and wild places, and felt our opportunities to experience these were slipping away. I wanted my children to enjoy the same places, in the same way I was able to."

Now, 15 years later, Peter has made major contributions as a volunteer to CPAWS. One of his proudest accomplishments is *Grizzly Bears Forever!*, an educational program that helps students understand the challenges that grizzly bears face in the Central Rockies ecosystem. Peter came up with the original concept for this program and worked with Gareth Thomson, Education Director, to refine and develop it. Peter took the proposal to his employer at the time, BP Canada Energy, to get funding. BP ended up contributing a hefty \$50,000 to get the program started. *Grizzly Bears Forever!* continues to be a success with



thousands of children benefiting from the program every year.

Another major project that Peter spearheaded is the Oil and Gas Best Practices Initiative. While industry has been making a lot of references to "best practices" in recent years, the environmental community found there was a lot of ambiguity associated with this term. As Peter put it, "There was a major disconnect between companies saying 'best practices' and stakeholders asking how 'best practices' are defined and measured." This disconnect led Peter and another dedicated volunteer, the late Phil Lulman, to come up with the best practices compendium concept. The web-based initiative not only describes best practices, but also gives

actions for industry to follow. Peter recently presented the initiative at the American Association of Petroleum Geologists conference in Calgary, and he is continuing to gather support for the project.

Peter joined the CPAWS-Calgary/Banff chapter's Board of Directors in the late 90s and served as the Chair from 2002–2005. Peter played a key leadership role on the board. Dave Poulton, Executive Director of the Calgary/Banff chapter, says, "Peter was able to provide valuable insight into the way resource companies operate and approach environmental issues. He was always conscious of the role and image of CPAWS in the conservation and broader community." Peter's ability to collaborate with industry has been a major asset to our organization.

Peter currently works as an environmental consultant for Komex International Ltd. in Calgary. He has two children and is soon to be married to his partner, Dianne Humphries. They live in an energy efficient house and do their best to live their values, which includes striving to reduce their ecological footprint. Peter spends his time walking, trekking, and canoeing. He has also recently taken up woodworking as a means of relaxation.

We are very grateful to Peter for all that he has contributed to CPAWS and the environmental community in general. Sue Ellis, current Chair of the Calgary/Banff chapter's Board of Directors, adds a personal comment, "Peter is rounded out with a great sense of humour. I often catch him smiling at life." His dedication to conservation is certainly worth smiling about! ■

Melanie Brown is the Outreach and Events Assistant for the Calgary/Banff chapter.



SNAP

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photo Jean Langlois/CPAWS



photo Scott McMann



photo R. McClure

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Telephone: 1-800-333-WILD (9453)
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