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by Chris Miller

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CPAWS is Canada's voice for wilderness. For over 45 years, we've played a lead role in creating over two-thirds of Canada's protected areas.

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New approaches for ancient places

OLIVER KENT

Conserving our natural heritage through innovation? A paradox, but an important part of what CPAWS does on your behalf.

This issue of Canadian Wilderness talks about the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement—the pioneering agreement which CPAWS and other environmental groups have reached with most of the major forestry companies in Canada. We might have seen these companies as enemies in the past, but we are now seeking common ground for the good of conservation.

One of the highlights of my summer was to see a different kind of innovation at work in CPAWS campaign to protect the Flathead valley of southeastern BC through a new national park and an adjacent wildlife management area. The Flathead has remained wild because it's difficult to get to. Settlers never came to the Flathead, because the rail line passed one valley north and the soil and climate were not suited to agriculture. The Flathead floodplain remained an outstanding habitat for birds and grizzly bears. Isolation kept the Flathead wild, but it also means that most Canadians have never seen or heard of it. That can make it hard to mobilize people when a wilderness area is threatened by development—in this case, open-pit coal mining, oil and gas drilling and coal bed gas extraction.

Innovation in the Flathead campaign has meant bringing conservation photographers in to take extraordinary pictures of the scenery and wildlife. It has also meant campaign tactics by CPAWS and its allies that built on the international profile of an area most Canadians don't know. The Flathead River flows south into Montana and along the border of the US Glacier National Park which, together with Canada's Waterton Lakes National Park, forms a UNESCO world heritage site. A campaign that has taken decades gained momentum in 2010 with a series of moves by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, Barack Obama, and the BC government. Our goal of protecting the Flathead is getting much closer. Sounds great, but I still wanted to see the Flathead for myself.

In late August, two of our grown children, Robin and Michael, joined me on a hiking trip to Waterton. Our key objective was to hike over the pass from Waterton and up the Akamina Ridge for a panoramic view of the mountain part of the Flathead. It was a long, hard day with some tricky spots both on the climb and along the top of the ridge, but we had perfect weather and the views from the top of the ridge were exceptional. It was great to stand where some of the photos for the campaign were taken—even if our own will never compete.

Oliver Kent is CPAWS' National Board President.



Michael, Oliver and Robin hiking in the Flathead, August 2010.

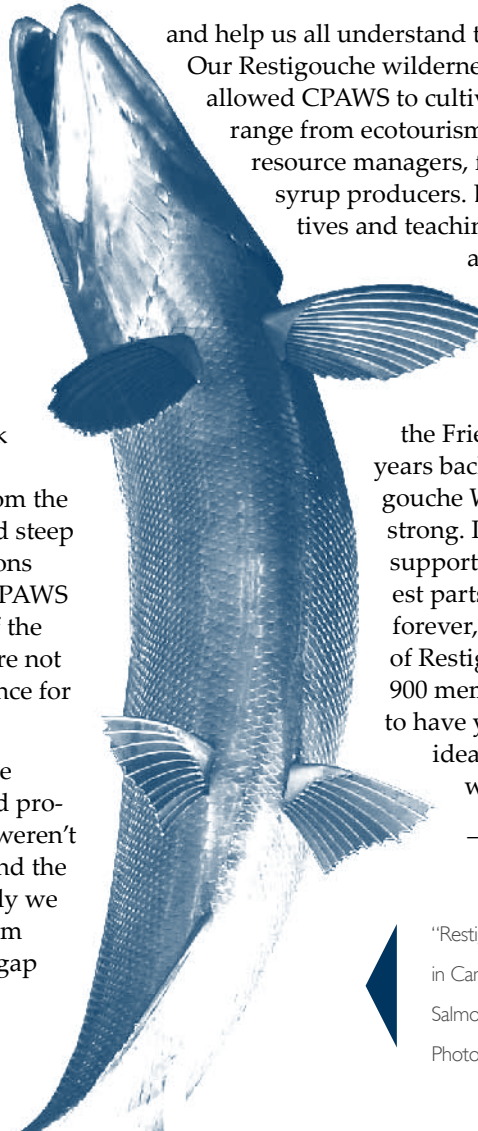
Salmon anglers & wild rivers – Restigouche recipe for success

In northern New Brunswick and the Gaspé, the wild Atlantic salmon is king.

The heritage and culture of the Restigouche region was built on the backs of Atlantic salmon fishing—for subsistence, then commercially and for recreational angling. It's been estimated that the historic Restigouche salmon angling lodges and their guides, hosting anglers from around the world, support a \$15 million dollar economy.

So it's no surprise that some of the most active community leaders for conservation are salmon angling groups. For the past 10 years, CPAWS New Brunswick has been working with anglers to protect the Restigouche River watershed, and we've learned plenty from the partnership. We've added more headwater stream and steep slope conservation into our protection recommendations based on their concerns about siltation and erosion. CPAWS has learned to be respectful of local traditional uses of the wilderness areas we hold dear. Hunting and fishing are not only part of the culture—they are a means of subsistence for many who work seasonally on the river.

Our first meetings were tentative. Anglers weren't sure what kinds of restrictions we environmentalists would propose for their beloved river. We as environmentalists weren't sure how to expand the conservation discussion beyond the river itself and into the surrounding forests. Thankfully we had a life-long local conservationist, a canoe ecotourism operator, who was able to bridge the communication gap



and help us all understand that we had much in common. Our Restigouche wilderness conservation campaign has allowed CPAWS to cultivate valued partnerships. They range from ecotourism operators to First Nations resource managers, from salmon anglers to maple syrup producers. Each brings different perspectives and teachings to the table. Collectively we all learn how to understand and respect the varied values the Restigouche inspires.

CPAWS and some of the local Restigouche groups started the Friends of Restigouche several years back, and our Keep the Restigouche Wild campaign is now going strong. In fact, we've gained over 6,000 supporters who are asking for the wildest parts of Restigouche to be protected forever, and have grown the Friends of Restigouche Facebook group to over 900 members. Check us out—we'd love to have you share your Restigouche ideas, photos, wishes and dreams at www.wildrestigouche.ca

—Roberta Clowater

◀ "Restigouche Sam", an Atlantic Salmon sculpture in Campbellton, NB, symbolizes the importance of Salmon to Restigouche area communities. Photo: Larry Krause.

CPAWS Newfoundland and Labrador partners with National Geographic to promote geotourism

Sustainable ecotourism has gained in popularity over the past decade, giving travelers an opportunity to visit and understand special wild places. But the human culture and heritage surrounding ecologically important areas can help sustain their assets, while giving travelers a deeper understanding of their destination. Enter geotourism—travel that sustains the character of a place—its

environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents.

CPAWS Newfoundland and Labrador and National Geographic are partnering to promote the province as the world's next geotourism site. Consisting of a printed map and an interactive website that promote natural and cultural attractions, this geotourism initiative will be launched in fall 2010.

Geotourism incorporates the concept of sustainable tourism—that destinations should remain unspoiled for future generations—while allowing for enhancement that protects the character of the locale. The project addresses the need to preserve the region's shrinking cultural and environmental assets and to revitalize small, rural communities.

—Suzanne Dooley



2010 J.B. Harkin Award

Dinner gala

Friday November 12th, 2010

7:00 pm

Red & White Club
University of Calgary

www.cpaws.org/harkin

CPAWS is pleased to announce that the members of the Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks are the 2010 recipients of the prestigious J.B. Harkin Award for Conservation.

This year's gala will feature an exquisite dinner, live music, a silent auction and keynote address by acclaimed wildlife biologist Stephen Herrero. A free seminar will be presented at 2pm entitled "The Future of Ecological Integrity in our Parks and Protected Areas" at the Faculty of Environmental Design.

First awarded in 1972, the Harkin Award recognizes those who have made significant contributions to environmental stewardship and conservation in Canada.

Gala tickets are \$70.

Order tickets, make a contribution, or share your comments at www.cpaws.org/harkin, or call 1-800-333-9453

Aboriginal leadership in Manitoba's Boreal

CPAWS Manitoba is working with First Nations on an innovative project. Through sharing of personal interest stories about Aboriginal leaders in conservation and post-ing employment/volunteer opportunities, the project is designed to inspire Aboriginal involvement and leadership in Boreal protection efforts.

There are a variety of positions available within the Aboriginal Conservation Leaders Project in education programming, research, writing, and grassroots distribution. CPAWS Manitoba also partners with other non-profit organizations to ensure that individuals can locate opportunities based on their interests and skills.



With this project, we aim to help ensure that Boreal forest protection strategies are respectful, appropriate, and effective in respect to Aboriginal people who have lived and breathed life in Canada's northern boreal for millenia.

Canada's wilderness offers a tremendous global conservation opportunity. However, many time-limited opportunities are at risk of being compromised or lost forever. CPAWS believes that more successfully engaging Canada's Aboriginal

population in conservation efforts is key to achieving a healthy future where all our natural regions are adequately represented with protected area networks. Learn more at abcleaders.org.

- Article and photo by Ron Thiessen

Joining forces

Conservation groups and forestry have traditionally been enemies, not partners, on conservation issues. CPAWS, with our history of finding collaborative solutions, is proud to be part of an unprecedented alliance announced earlier this year that stands to change the face of conservation in Canada and across the world.



BY ARAN O'CARROLL

photo: Karen Stroebel



Aran O'Carroll, National Manager of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs for CPAWS (left) and Avrim Lazar, CEO of the Forest Products Association of Canada (right) speak at the announcement of the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement

- Protecting habitat of species at risk of extinction, most notably woodland caribou;
- Protecting the contributions forests make to the regulation of our climate.

The Agreement applies to 72 million hectares—an area the size of Alberta—of some of the most immediately threatened wilderness found in all of Canada's seven Boreal provinces. All of these public lands are tenured to the forestry companies involved in the agreement.

We believe that an agreement of this size holds the potential to transform the entire scale of wilderness conservation in Canada and even abroad. It has already transformed the way the Canadian forest industry conducts itself, and we're seeing early interest in this approach from the mining and oil and gas sectors.

Caribou are key

Protecting the remaining habitat of threatened woodland caribou is central to the Agreement. One of the initial commitments is that no new logging or road-building will occur in 98% of the remaining critical woodland caribou habitat within lands leased to FPAC member companies for the next three years. This "pause" gives us time to negotiate permanent solutions for the endangered forest caribou. With the forestry companies, we will be seeking additional support and engagement of Aboriginal Canadians, other natural resources extractive companies and provincial and federal governments to implement the solutions we develop.

Canada's Boreal forest is globally significant. We have more remaining intact forests than any other country, but the operations of the Canadian forest industry represent the most extensive threat to boreal ecosystems and wildlife.

After years of discussion, the majority of Canada's Boreal forest industry and nine leading conservation groups, including CPAWS, have come together to establish a globally significant model for conservation and management in Canada's Boreal forest.

Signed on May 18th of this year, the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA) commits the 21 member companies of the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) to work collaboratively with CPAWS and our environmental colleagues over three years, subject to regular independent monitoring and public reporting. The major conservation goals include:

- Establishing networks of new protected areas and improving industry conservation practices on the landscapes surrounding them;



The Agreement applies to 72 million hectares of Boreal Forest.

Photo: Lori Labatt

CPAWS is calling for protection of woodland caribou because they are a disturbance sensitive, wide-ranging species whose remaining intact forest habitats occupy more than half of Canada's Boreal wilderness. Their preferred habitat stores huge amounts of carbon and helps regulate our climate. CPAWS' "Caribou and You" campaign, online at caribouandyou.ca, has spurred over 20,000 people to sign their names in support of protecting this species.

The work has just begun

Now that the Agreement is in place, we have a tremendous amount of work to do. With the support of our membership, many CPAWS staff across Canada will dedicate their time to negotiations and technical conservation planning, implementing the Agreement together with our partner conservation groups and industry members.

CPAWS will be deeply involved in negotiations, including all four of the locations identified as first priorities. These are all areas where CPAWS has long campaigned for greater protection:

- **The Rocky Mountain Foothills of Alberta**, less than 2% protected, but home to some of the Boreal's most threatened caribou populations, including the Little Smoky herd;
- **Alberta's Athabasca Heartland**, ground zero for the oil sands industry and a place where forest industry leader-



Photo: CBFA

ship and the cooperation of our oil and gas sector and Aboriginal partners on the Boreal Leadership Council offer a genuine opportunity for conservation;

- **Ontario's northeast**, where a long-standing collaboration between CPAWS Wildlands League, local First Nations, and leading forest company Tembec has helped to lay the foundation for a conservation outcome that will 'hold the line' for woodland caribou;
- **The Vallée des Montagnes Blanches** in east central Quebec, home to some of the province's last, large, intact landscapes and WoodlandCaribou populations in the commercial forest zone.

CPAWS will work with existing and new First Nations partners to craft conservation plans supported by Aboriginal peoples. We were a strong voice at the table during the CBFA negotiations in obtaining the forest industry's agreement to explicitly recognize Aboriginal Canadians' legitimate inter-



Over 20,000 Canadians support CPAWS' campaign to protect Woodland Caribou, giving caribou and their habitat a key role in the agreement. Photo: Ted Simonett

ests and aspirations. The Agreement is intended to respect the rights and titles of Aboriginal Canadians, and we will require the fair, inclusive involvement of Aboriginal peoples and their governments in our processes.

CPAWS in key role

The timing was right for conservation groups and industry to look for new solutions. The past several years have been challenging for forestry in Canada for many reasons, including the global economic downturn and fall in new home construction in the US, the rise in the Canadian dollar and its impact on our export competitiveness, consumer demand for "green" products and the impending regulatory reforms to protect at-risk woodland caribou habitat and existing natural carbon capture and storage systems.

All of these influences coincided to create a unique opportunity for collaboration. And that is where CPAWS came in. CPAWS has a proven track record of finding conservation solutions with the Canadian forest industry and others. We were founding members of the Boreal Leadership Council; we had secured

conservation for woodland caribou with a key forest industry leader, Tembec, in British Columbia and Manitoba. We were in the midst of negotiations with the Nova Scotia forest industry, including influential FPAC members, for an expanded protected areas system in that province (see page 9). We are working with the influential Irving company for conservation outcomes in New Brunswick (see page 10). This track record, plus our history of collaboration in the negotiations for new protected areas, convinced the forestry association and its members that working with conservation groups could be mutually beneficial. Based on our history of success, CPAWS is optimistic that, with the support of its membership and other conservation organizations, our work will deliver a network of new protected areas and significant improvements in Boreal forest management that will benefit Aboriginal Canadians, the forest sector and the broader Canadian public. Now it's time to get down to work!

Learn more at cpaws.org/boreal.

Aran O'Carroll is National Manager of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs for CPAWS. He is on leave to work on implementing the agreement at the CBFA secretariat.

Who's involved

Conservation groups

- Canadian Boreal Initiative
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
- Canopy
- David Suzuki Foundation
- ForestEthics
- Greenpeace
- The Nature Conservancy
- Pew Environment Group
- International Boreal Conservation Campaign
- Ivey Foundation

Forestry Companies

Represented by the Forest Products Association of Canada

- AbitibiBowater Inc.
- Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.
- AV Group
- Canfor Corporation
- Canfor Pulp Limited Partnership
- Cariboo Pulp & Paper Company
- Cascades Inc.
- Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd.
- F.F. Soucy Inc.
- Howe Sound Pulp and Paper Limited Partnership
- Kruger Inc.
- Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd.
- Mercer International
- Mill & Timber Products Ltd.
- NewPage Corporation
- Papier Masson Ltée
- SFK Pâte
- Tembec
- Tolko Industries Ltd.
- West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd.
- Weyerhaeuser Company Limited

Nova Scotia breakthrough:

Forest companies and conservation groups agree on wilderness protection

CHRIS MILLER

Our van was hopelessly stuck in the mud, just off the side of a logging road deep in the woods of eastern Nova Scotia.

We were an unlikely group of people who climbed out and started to push, consisting of several environmentalists like myself and a group of forestry workers from the nearby mill. After a while, we managed to get the van out of the ditch, congratulated each other for our teamwork, and proceeded to wipe away the mud that had splattered us from head-to-toe, environmentalist and forestry company worker alike. Then it was back to work checking out several forest harvesting sites and a number of properties jointly proposed for protection.

Looking back, this moment was symbolic. After years of hard-fought battles in the forests of Nova Scotia opposing forestry operations, CPAWS and other environmental groups decided to sit down with willing forest companies and try to work out differences together, through direct dialogue and negotiations, rather than throwing stones at each other from afar.

The Colin Stewart Forest Forum began in 2005 and saw CPAWS and other conservation groups work with the five largest forest companies operating in Nova Scotia. Our aim: to reach an agreement about which lands should be protected, how to lessen potential impacts on the forest industry, and to bring these recommendations to government together. After several years of negotiations, and much heavy-lifting on all sides, we submitted a final joint report to the Nova Scotia government late last year, with full consensus from all parties involved in the discussions. In short, the negotiations were a success!

Our final report recommended a huge expansion of the protected area system in Nova Scotia, totaling almost a quarter

million hectares of newly protected land — almost a 50% expansion of the current system. We jointly recommended the best remaining big wilderness sites in the province for protection, as well as hundreds of smaller sites important for species-at-risk, old-growth forests, significant wetlands, coastal islands and headlands, under-represented landscapes, and sites adjacent to existing protected areas.

In 2009, The Nova Scotia government accepted the report and formally endorsed the proposal as its path forward for expanding the protected areas system in the province, and almost immediately allocated \$75 million in funding to purchase private lands owned by the forest companies. This meant we secured 56,000 hectares of high conservation value lands for protection, resulting in the largest conservation land purchase in Nova Scotia's history. These lands would otherwise likely have been clearcut or sold for development.

The Colin Stewart Forest Forum has also helped advance the protection of a number of important wilderness sites that have long been stalled inside the government bureaucracy. This includes a large swath of public land at Chignecto, inland from the shores of the Upper Bay of Fundy, containing some of the largest remaining intact forest in Nova Scotia and important habitat for the endangered mainland moose, peregrine falcon, wood turtle, and Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon. Identified as a high-priority for protection through the Colin Stewart Forest Forum, the Nova Scotia government announced last year that it would

establish a “large” new protected wilderness area on these public lands and is now moving ahead with formal public consultations to make that happen.

There's still plenty of work left to do and the provincial government must still make good on its promise to implement additional recommendations of the Colin Stewart Forest Forum report before it can truly be considered a success. But, just like pushing the van out of the ditch on that muddy dirt road that day, these innovative negotiations in Nova Scotia



Wood Turtle habitat at Chignecto will be protected as a result of the Forum. Photo: Mike Jones

have already shown that collaboration between environmental groups and forest companies is possible even under difficult circumstance. The end result is a win-win scenario much greater than the sum of its parts. This is benefitting not just the forests and wildlife of Nova Scotia, but communities across the province, and forest companies that want to become more environmentally responsible.

Chris Miller is CPAWS' National Manager of Wilderness Conservation and Climate Change. He played a key role in the Colin Stewart Forest Forum negotiations.



Nahanni headwaters wend way towards new national park status: questions remain on boundaries

The June 2009 expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve was a significant achievement, yet the upper portion of the Nahanni watershed, the headwaters region, remains unprotected. The federal government is considering boundary options for the proposed Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve in the headwaters region. However, the options presented so far include concessions for road access and mining development.

Nahanni National Park Reserve and the proposed Nááts'ihch'oh National Park

Reserve share one ecosystem. Thus, full protection of Nááts'ihch'oh is critical for the future of the headwaters, for the future of the pristine waters of the South Nahanni River, and for the future of the Mountain Woodland Caribou, Grizzly Bear and Dall's Sheep that rely on the entire Nahanni ecosystem for survival.

At time of writing, the boundary review process was nearing completion. The opportunity to protect one of the largest ecologically intact watersheds left on the planet is closing. Take action now and add

your voice. Write a letter to your Member of Parliament asking that Nááts'ihch'oh, the headwaters of the South Nahanni watershed be fully protected.

www.cpaws.org/nahanni

- Kris Brekke



Part of the Nahanni headwaters region slated for protection. Photo: Christian Bucher / Parks Canada

Newfoundlanders Adopt a Beach to monitor oiled birds

A walk on the beach could also be a powerful tool to monitor oil pollution on Newfoundland's coastline. CPAWS NL, in partnership with Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada (CWS), is starting an Adopt-A-Beach program on the Avalon Peninsula. Local volunteers will take a weekly census of birds washed up on local beaches, and their data will help both researchers and decisionmakers. Beached bird surveys have been used for decades to monitor the extent of oil spills & pollution. Oil pollution from shipping routes along the Avalon Peninsula has the potential to affect millions of seabirds.

To join the program, contact sdooley@cpaws.org.

-Suzanne Dooley

Foresters, conservation groups and universities join forces in New Brunswick

CPAWS New Brunswick is participating in a new five-year collaborative project to find ways to conserve New Brunswick's forests while supporting a diverse forest, and sustainable supply of forest products and community benefits. Other participants include forest researchers from the University of New Brunswick and Université de Moncton, forestry company J.D. Irving Ltd., and other conservation and wildlife NGOs.

Roberta Clowater, Executive Director of CPAWS NB, says, "To improve wilderness conservation in New Brunswick, we have to resolve the persistent conflicts that come up between those who harvest the forest for timber products and those who value stronger protection of natural areas. We expect our involvement in this project will result in more agreement on forest conservation. This should enable governments to increase protected areas without the traditional backlash." CPAWS NB will keep supporters updated as we embark on this new approach to finding common ground.

CPAWS Manitoba calendar includes a special gift

CPAWS Manitoba's 2011 Boreal Wilderness Calendar is hot off the press. The fourth annual calendar visually showcases Manitoba's spectacular natural landscapes and wildlife while highlighting the most exciting conservation opportunities in our province. As a bonus, every calendar purchased includes a \$25 gift certificate to the award winning Fusion Grill in Winnipeg.

The calendar is available for \$13.95, for you or the nature enthusiast on your gift list. We are also offering discounts for buying 5 or more calendars. All proceeds go to CPAWS Manitoba's continued efforts toward achieving protection of the wild Manitoba places and creatures that we know and treasure.

To order, go to www.cpawsemb.org or call (204) 949-0782.



Alberta Grizzlies recognized as threatened

On June 3, the Alberta government declared Alberta's grizzly bear population as threatened under the Alberta Wildlife Act. This symbolic gesture from government marks a significant win for grizzly bear conservation in the province.

CPAWS Southern Alberta (SAB) Chapter has been actively involved in the grizzly bear campaign for years and has more recently been part of a coalition of environmental organizations working to protect the species. Alberta's 2010 Status of the Grizzly Bear in Alberta report listed 691 bears outside of the national parks, where human contact puts them at greater risk. Mortality rates are unsustainably high and the causes diverse, but the number one threat to grizzly bear survival is the abundance of roads into core habitat.

CPAWS SAB continues to work with other environmental organizations to ensure an adequate recovery strategy for grizzly bears is implemented.

-Anne-Marie Syslak

Sable Island National Park proposed for Nova Scotia

Parks Canada is moving ahead with its plans to protect Nova Scotia's Sable Island as Canada's newest national park. Public consultations have wrapped up and the park is expected to be established in the coming months. Earlier this year, the Nova Scotia and federal governments announced they had signed a memorandum-of-understanding to add stronger protection to the remote island off Nova Scotia's Atlantic coast.

The windswept and iconic Sable Island contains the largest sand dunes in eastern North America, the world's largest colony of grey seals, over 300 species of birds, and species-at-risk including the endangered roseate tern and the only known breeding location in the world for the Ipswich savannah sparrow. The area is also famous for its herd of wild horses, which have roamed the island for more than two centuries.

Through the creation of Sable Island National Park, CPAWS is urging strict conservation measures be put in place to protect the island, including limiting visitation, developing off-island visitor experiences, amending offshore legislation to curtail any oil and gas exploration or production activities on or below the island, and supporting on-going scientific research. We thank all those who took the time to write Parks Canada in support of the national park.

-Chris Miller

Making mining *meilleure* in Quebec

Quebec's Mining Act is being updated this year and CPAWS (SNAP) Quebec is working to ensure that good social and environmental practices are a top priority. SNAP joins over a dozen organizations in the coalition *Pour que le Québec ait meilleure mine !*, representing thousands of citizens in the province. The coalition is advocating for better mining practices in Quebec by working collaboratively with mining companies, the Quebec government and the communities that are directly affected.

During the public consultation for *Bill 79—An Act to Amend the Mining Act*, SNAP asked the Quebec government to develop a more responsible mining industry, and to remove the supremacy of mining over all other land uses, including the creation of protected areas.

The coalition and SNAP are educating both the public and the Quebec government on the importance of protecting land before opening it to the mining industry, as public consultations on the bill resumed in August.

www.quebecmeilleuremine.org
(French only)

-Sophie Paradis



I walk the (Sky)Line

How did you spend Canada Day 2010? CPAWS supporter Jason Murphy raised over \$2,000 for CPAWS by hiking the entire Skyline Trail—45 km of spectacular mountain terrain in Jasper National Park. Here is his account.

Atop the Notch Pass in Jasper National Park, I slowly turn 360 degrees in the teeth of a wind that seems bent on ripping every hair off my head. The sky above me is the colour of old dishwater and the normally crisp mineral scent of alpine air is mixed with a damp hint of approaching rain.

Despite the weather, I want to savour one of the finest views in the Canadian Rockies. To the west, the entire Athabasca River Valley stretches before me, the little town of Jasper scattered along its floor – I have a satellite's view of its houses, streets and rail yard from up here. Mount Edith Cavell with its angel-shaped glacier looms nearby, the most prominent of dozens of other famous peaks. The eastern horizon is bordered by the grey, saw-toothed ridges of the Maligne and Elizabeth ranges. Iconic Maligne Lake lies at their feet but I can't see it from here thanks to the intervening bulk of an intimidating orange and black massif known as the Watchtower. Ahead of me, a narrow trail ribbons along an exposed ridge-top towards Mount Tekarra. It's a rounded, uninspiring peak when viewed from Jasper townsite. But that's because you can't see its south face, which plummets a sheer and spectacular 500 meters to a verdant river valley below.

Tugging my tuque down over my ears, I shift my backpack on my shoulders and smile at the wind (which just seems to tick it off). It's taken me nearly 7 hours and 22 km of wet, often snowy hiking to get here. But it all seems worth it right now.

I just wish I were more than halfway done the day's walk.

It's Canada Day and I'm hiking all 45 km of Jasper's signature Skyline Trail in one stretch – from the shores of Maligne Lake, over the Notch and then down to the shores of the Athabasca - to raise awareness and funds for CPAWS. As impermeable as this landscape might seem, I know that it and our other treasured wild spaces need the kind of thoughtful monitoring, preservation and advocacy that is CPAWS' hallmark. So, after a brief fundraising campaign and what seemed like an interminably long training campaign, I find myself here on the Notch with \$2,000 in pledges collected and 23 km to go before a hot bath and warm bed in Jasper.

The late Spring weather has made the hike tougher than anticipated. And a little voice in my head keeps reminding me that even on my training hikes I've never covered this kind of distance on this type of terrain before. But I feel good – about the view, how far I've already come and, best of all, how with each step I might be helping to make sure others can enjoy this trail too. Leaning into the wind, I get going.

For the full story on Jason's "I Walk the (Sky)Line" hike, visit Jason's blog at www.getgone.wordpress.com.

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514-278-7627
www.snapqc.org

CPAWS New Brunswick
506-452-9902
www.cpawsnb.org

CPAWS Newfoundland
709-726-5800
www.cpawsnl.org

CPAWS Nova Scotia
902-446-4155
www.cpawsns.org

CPAWS Northwest Territories
867-873-9893
www.cpawsnwt.org

CPAWS Ottawa Valley
613-232-7297
www.cpaws-ov-vo.org

CPAWS Saskatchewan
306-955-6197
www.cpaws-sask.org

CPAWS Wildlands League
416-971-9453 or 1-866-570-WILD
www.wildlandsleague.org

CPAWS Yukon
867-393-8080
www.cpawsyukon.org

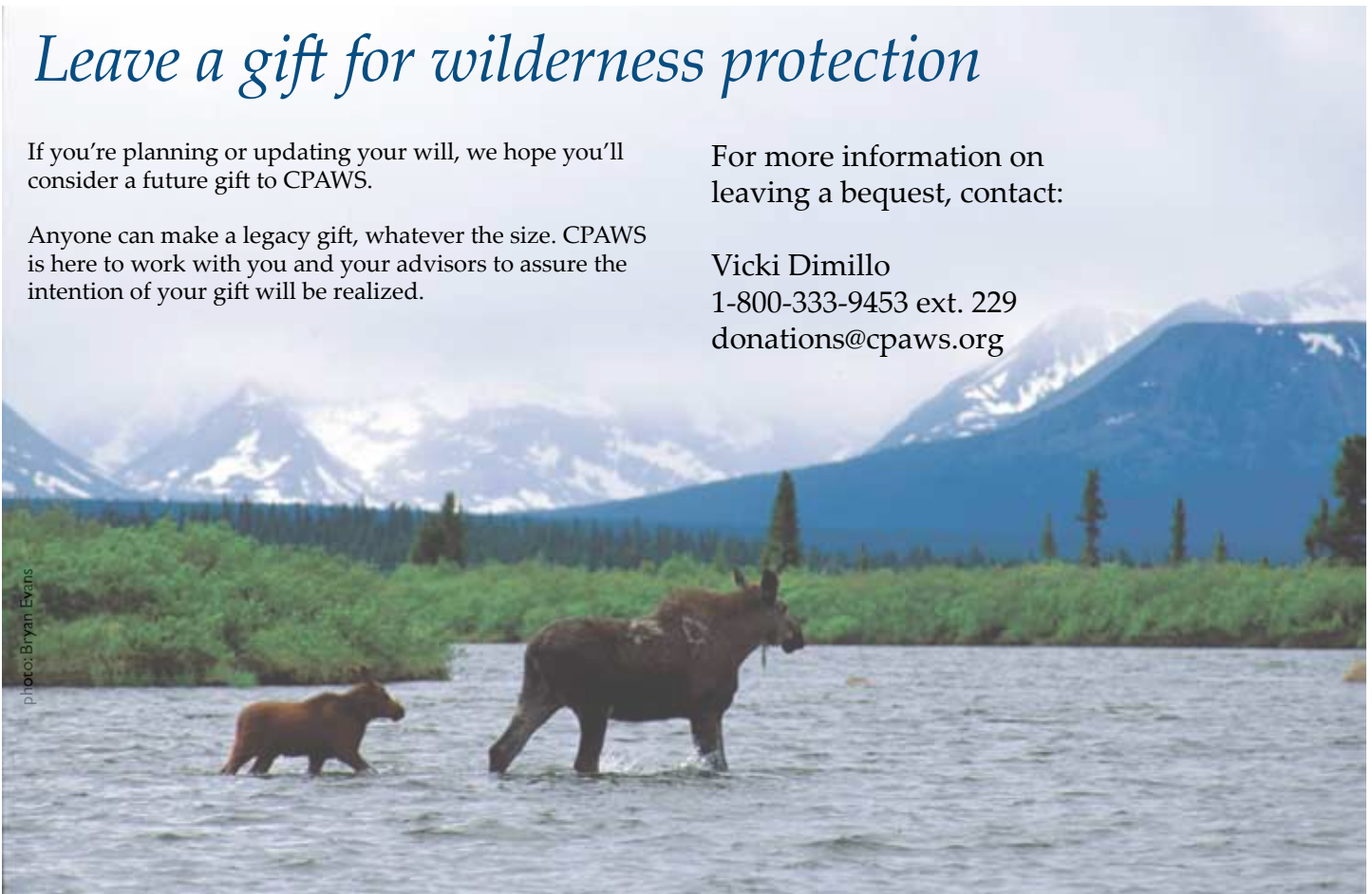
Leave a gift for wilderness protection

If you're planning or updating your will, we hope you'll consider a future gift to CPAWS.

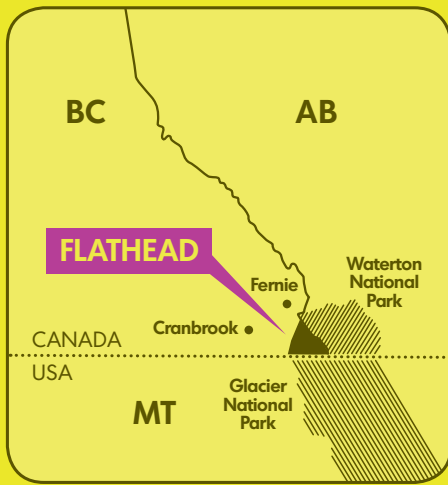
Anyone can make a legacy gift, whatever the size. CPAWS is here to work with you and your advisors to assure the intention of your gift will be realized.

For more information on leaving a bequest, contact:

Vicki Dimillo
1-800-333-9453 ext. 229
donations@cpaws.org



ONE SIMPLE ACT CAN KEEP THE FLATHEAD WILD



 **Insets** Joe Riis, ILCP
Main Garth Lenz, ILCP

Act now. Go to thebigwild.org and send an email to BC Premier Gordon Campbell asking for permanent protection of the Flathead River Valley – one of the last wild river valleys in Canada's southern Rockies.

An abundant ecosystem, rich with carnivore species, wildflowers, pristine water, and native trout, the Flathead Valley recently won protection from mining exploration, thanks to voices of people like you. Until it is permanently protected, the Flathead is not safe.

The Flathead Valley sits beside Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Flathead, in combination with Waterton-Glacier, will form a permanently protected, globally significant ecosystem. By acting on this campaign, you not only secure protection of a unique wildlife corridor, you ensure inspiring recreational opportunities for future generations.

Go to thebigwild.org to learn more about this and other current Big Wild campaigns. Together we can protect at least half of our wild land and water across Canada.



The Big Wild was founded by Mountain Equipment Co-op and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS).

thebigwild.org