

Canadian

WILDERNESS

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strength in
partnership

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CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY



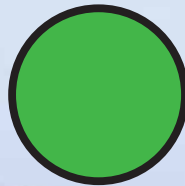
CPAWS is proud to be one of the member groups of the SeaChoice sustainable seafood program, to help Canadian businesses and shoppers take an active role in supporting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

Working in collaboration with the Monterey Bay Aquarium's acclaimed Seafood Watch program, SeaChoice undertakes science-based seafood assessments, provides informative resources for consumers, and supports businesses through collaborative partnerships.

SeaChoice identifies sustainable seafood as fish or shellfish that is caught or farmed in ways that consider the long-term viability of harvested populations and the ocean's health and ecological integrity.

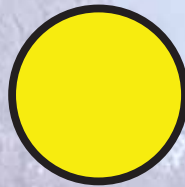
SeaChoice makes it easy to identify these choices with a three-tiered ranking system based on biological and ecological factors to help you make sustainable choices.

Green 'Best Choice'



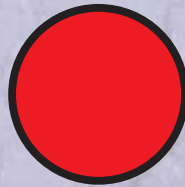
Seafood comes from a fishery or farm that implements strong environmental practices

Yellow 'Some Concerns'



Another seafood choice when 'Best Choice' is unavailable. The fishery or farm implements sound environmental practices however there is room for improvement.

Red 'Avoid'



Do not purchase these fish until the industry improves their practices so populations recover. Red-listed seafood comes from sources that have a combination of problems – habitat damage, by-catch, poor management, low populations, can be easily harmed by fishing or may be listed by governments as Endangered.

Download a pocket guide and make sustainable seafood choices for healthy oceans with SeaChoice.
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There will be no Spring 2013 edition of Canadian Wilderness.

Instead, watch for our special 50th Anniversary issue coming out in the fall of 2013!

COVER: *Little Limestone Lake, Manitoba - Scott Kroeker*

ABOVE: *Southern Strait of Georgia - Sabine Jessen*

CPAWS Wilderness Protection Club

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Young Big horn sheep.
Photo: Ashley Hockenberry

CONTACT US

CPAWS National Office
506-250 City Centre Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1R 6K7
613-569-7226 or 1-800-333-WILD
info@cpaws.org
www.cpaws.org

CPAWS British Columbia
604-685-7445
www.cpawsbc.org

CPAWS Southern Alberta
403-232-6686
www.cpaws-southernalberta.org

CPAWS Northern Alberta
780-424-5128
www.cpawsnab.org

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

CPAWS Manitoba
204-949-0782
www.cpawsmb.org

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

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

SNAP (CPAWS) Québec
514-278-7627
www.snapqc.org

CPAWS New Brunswick
506-452-9902
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CPAWS Nova Scotia
902-446-4155
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Partnering to expand Canada's parks

OLIVER KENT

This summer, I visited two future national parks – Rouge on the eastern edge of Toronto and South Okanagan Similkameen (SOS) in B.C.

The two visits could not have been more different, but one thing was clear – it's going to take a lot of collaboration, negotiation and compromise to get these parks established.

My Rouge visit was official – part of a national board meeting, with CPAWS trustees and staff briefed in advance by Parks Canada and ferried to a series of exploratory walks by bus. Getting this park officially established was only going to happen if everyone – landowners, the province, a number of municipalities and the federal government, all of whom own land within the park – worked together.

Partnerships are central to the way CPAWS approaches conservation, as you will read about in these pages.

My peek at SOS was informal – part of a three-week cycling trip with friends in the mountains of B.C. When I had a flat tire next to a sign for the site, someone asked what I wouldn't do to spend more time in a park.

Different as they were, both visits introduced me to areas I didn't know – to the Rouge valley as a slice of rural Ontario within the growing city, and to the South Okanagan as the driest corner of Canada with some remarkable landscapes and species. Even a little time on site makes it easy to understand why local people are so passionate about protecting these two unique places.

In the Rouge, the battle between conservation and development was fought decades ago, with provincial and municipal governments ultimately choosing to set land aside from suburban sprawl. Some of the people who fought those battles were Conservatives. They have convinced the current government that the Rouge should become our first National Urban Park and be expanded to include lands once acquired for a second Toronto airport.

In the SOS area, I had to explain to my cycling companions why some landowners have put up signs saying "No National Park". No one would be forced to sell their land and surveys show that the great majority of local residents favour a park. Local business organizations are now speaking out in favour as well. Some politicians are not yet convinced, however, and it may take a provincial election to drive the point home. Next May, I'm returning to the South Okanagan with my fellow Board members for a more formal tour and, we hope, a positive answer.

Oliver Kent is CPAWS' National Board President.



Oliver Kent cycling through South Okanagan, B.C.



CPAWS is Canada's voice for wilderness. Since 1963, we've played a lead role in creating over two-thirds of Canada's protected areas.

National Office
506-250 City Centre Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1R 6K7
Telephone: 1-800-333-WILD
E-mail: info@cpaws.org

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Partnering for Conservation

BY ÉRIC HÉBERT-DALY

CPAWS has been around for almost 50 years and in that time, we've succeeded in protecting more than half a million square kilometres of public lands and waters in Canada.

As a national conservation organization with chapters in nearly every province and territory, we're able to work in every corner of the country with a wide array of other interested parties to protect Canada's wilderness and ensure a healthy future for our parks.

We approach opportunities to protect our parks and to conserve wilderness by collaborating with key partners. As unlikely as some of these partnerships might seem, working together to achieve common goals has enabled us to achieve so much. Industry, governments, First Nations and local communities are all interested in the outcomes we seek, and we work hard to find common ground with all stakeholders in order to achieve a balanced outcome that benefits us all.

Though this type of approach can present its own unique set of challenges, it's always much more effective to work together than against each other. In seeking out partnerships and collaboration for all of our conservation work, we're able to achieve positive outcomes on the ground, throughout the country, collaboratively and effectively.

In this issue of Canadian Wilderness, we report on some of the very special partnerships that people connected with CPAWS have nurtured over the years, all resulting in major gains for conservation.

Éric Hébert-Daly is the National Executive Director of CPAWS.

Pine Marten
Photo: Craig Douce

www.cpaws.org

Unlikely allies agree on Ontario forestry plan

BY JANET SUMNER

Result? Good news for caribou, jobs and local communities.

For over five years, CPAWS-Wildlands League has been meeting with representatives of forestry company Tembec, the Ontario government and local First Nations who all had a lot to say – from very different perspectives – about the future of Ontario’s vast northeastern Abitibi River Forest. Over the last year and half, we met intensively with the local mayors to listen to their perspectives and make sure local communities’ interests were reflected in our approach.



(L to R) Janet Sumner (Executive Director, CPAWS Wildlands League), Richard Garneau, (President and CEO, Resolute Forest Products), Michael Gravelle, (Ontario Minister of Natural Resources), Jim Lopez, (President and CEO of Tembec, President of Forest Products Association of Canada), Tom Laughren (Mayor of Timmins and President of Northeastern Ontario Municipal Association) and Linda Job (Chief, Taykwa Tagamou Nation) at the CBFA’s Abitibi River Forest Announcement
Photo: CBFA Secretariat

Our primary goal was to conserve Boreal caribou habitat within this area. Province wide, caribou range had shrunk by approximately 50% and this site in northeastern Ontario represented one of the priority areas for CPAWS because of its remaining intact forests. It also represented one of the best chances for a progressive plan for caribou because of the presence of Tembec, a leader in the industry. The area also overlaps with the traditional territory of several First Nations including Taykwa Tagamou Nation and Moose Cree.

Patience and persistence paid off. In mid-2012, two years after CPAWS, Tembec and many other organizations and forestry companies signed the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA), I stood proudly with Tembec CEO Jim Lopez, Timmins mayor Tom Laughren and Taykwa Tagamou Chief Linda Job, to publicly present our plan for the area with the Ontario government. Ontario Minister of Natural Resources Michael Gravelle was with us that day and was very enthusiastic not only about the plan but also the collaborative approach that was used to develop it.

Our action plan recommendations aim to secure the future of the 3 million hectares of caribou range in the Abitibi River Forest. They will protect Boreal woodland caribou while maintaining hundreds of jobs in the forestry industry. The proposed recommendations will ensure that over 800,000 hectares of intact habitat for Boreal woodland caribou would be excluded from harvest, and that the remaining 2.2 million hectares would remain open to forestry, with the highest standards of sustainable forest practices in place to safeguard wildlife and ecosystems.

Our breakthrough proposed plan for the Abitibi River Forest underscores that prosperity and conservation can go hand-in-hand. It demonstrates what’s possible when unlikely allies put their heads together.

Our plan was made stronger and viable with the knowledge and support of local people. We listened to First Nations. We met with local mayors. We incorporated the best available science and tested our solutions through the lens of reducing disturbance in caribou range and increasing wood supply

We’re very proud that this action plan represents the first major proposal under the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement that will result in large-scale conservation of critical woodland caribou habitat and sustainable forestry practices. It wouldn’t have been possible without strong partners like Tembec, and we thank them and all of our colleagues for their perseverance and commitment.

As the organization with “boots on the ground”, we work to build solutions to seemingly intractable problems by talking to industry, First Nations, governments and concerned citizens. This is what sets us apart as a conservation group and we pride ourselves in our ability to work with stakeholders across the board. We look forward to continuing to work with the Ontario government, local First Nations and mayors in getting this plan implemented by the summer of 2013. Across the country, other CPAWS representatives are working on similar such plans with forestry companies and local communities.

For more information, please visit cpaws.org/cbfa-abitibiriverforest

Janet Sumner is the Executive Director of CPAWS-Wildlands League.

Partnering with First Nation leads to Manitoba conservation gain

BY RON THIESSEN

Five years ago, on the rocky shores of Little Limestone Lake, Chief Phillip Buck of Mosakahiken Cree Nation and I met for the first time. We quickly developed a good rapport and soon began discussing the possibilities for permanently protecting the biggest and best colour-changing marl lake in the world. Over the next year, we had many conversations and meetings. These resulted in a trusting relationship and an official Mosakahiken/CPAWS partnership based on a shared vision about a healthy future for Little Limestone Lake.

One of the first steps in our alliance was to discover how much of the surrounding lands needed to be protected to ensure the lake's ecological integrity would remain intact. We knew that safeguarding the groundwater feeding the lake would be paramount. CPAWS raised funds for a scientific study to be conducted by Dr. Derek Ford, the world's leading marl lake expert. Before long, the Manitoba government also joined in and funded part of the study.

In summer 2010, I spent two days boating around the lake and exploring its landscape by truck and by foot with Dr. Ford, Chief Buck, and several government staff. Two months later, Dr. Ford presented his report that identifies what he refers to as the "play-it-safe" boundary. After much discussion between CPAWS and Mosakahiken, we agreed that if we wanted to ensure a healthy future for Little Limestone Lake, then this was the boundary we needed to aim for.

Photo: Little Limestone Lake - Ron Thiessen



(L to R) Chief Buck and Ron Thiessen
Photo: Chanda Hunnie

In spring 2011, the government came to us with a proposed boundary that was larger than what they had originally proposed but much smaller than what we were advocating for. It covered the lake itself and some additional lands and another lake to the south. With limited time to further consult with the mining industry before the upcoming provincial election, we agreed to the smaller park boundaries on the condition that the province commit to exploring increased protection for the park in the future. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed, committing the government to consider enlarging the park's boundaries, and the park was officially established in June of that year.

When Little Limestone Lake Provincial Park was announced, Chief Buck said, "We work to protect our lands and waters, and we can't do it alone. CPAWS makes sure our views and concerns are heard." We're so glad to have developed such a wonderful relationship with Chief Buck and the Mosakahiken Cree Nation, and we look forward to continuing our collaborative approach to working with the Manitoba government and all involved in pursuing better protection for our province.

Ron Thiessen is the Executive Director of CPAWS-Manitoba.

Gord Vaadeland

Saskatchewan's man on conservation

No stranger to waking up to find a bison or two in his backyard, Gord Vaadeland, Executive Director of CPAWS Saskatchewan, is also Executive Director and co-founder of the Sturgeon River Plains Bison Stewards and the owner of Sturgeon River Ranch, located on the “wild west side” of Prince Albert National Park.

Gord is a true cowboy if you've ever seen one – nine times out of 10, you're likely to find him on horseback, wandering the backcountry near Big River, SK. And 10 times out of 10, you're guaranteed to find him wearing his cowboy hat, even on Parliament Hill.

Gord is motivated by his deep love for Saskatchewan's amazing wild places and species. He's truly a force for conservation in his province. Through his bison stewardship work, Gord has joined with other land owners, Prince Albert National Park staff and local First Nations to protect the wild, free ranging Plains bison that roam between the park and privately owned farmland beyond its boundaries.

As part of the ongoing efforts to find the right balance between a healthy bison population and the many issues that go along with it, Gord is a leader in developing a



Gord on the range
Photo: Stuart Kasdorf Photography

long-term management plan for the herd. He and others have broadened the conversation about conserving this iconic prairie wildlife species to include universities and municipal governments as well as local interested parties.

And there's more. On behalf of CPAWS, Gord is working with the local forest industry to support planning and implementation of the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement. He's also working with the province to promote better protection of Saskatchewan's endangered woodland caribou. Rumour also has it that on certain weekends, you'll find Gord playing with his bluegrass band in fine establishments near his home.

Rancher, businessman and conservationist, with his collaborative approach to addressing the province's conservation challenges, Gord is one of the many strong members of the CPAWS team across Canada.

To learn more about Gord's work, visit www.cpaws-sask.org, www.bisonstewards.ca and www.sturgeonriverranch.com.

Bison
Photo: Sturgeon River Plains Bison Stewards



Nahanni headwaters moving towards protection

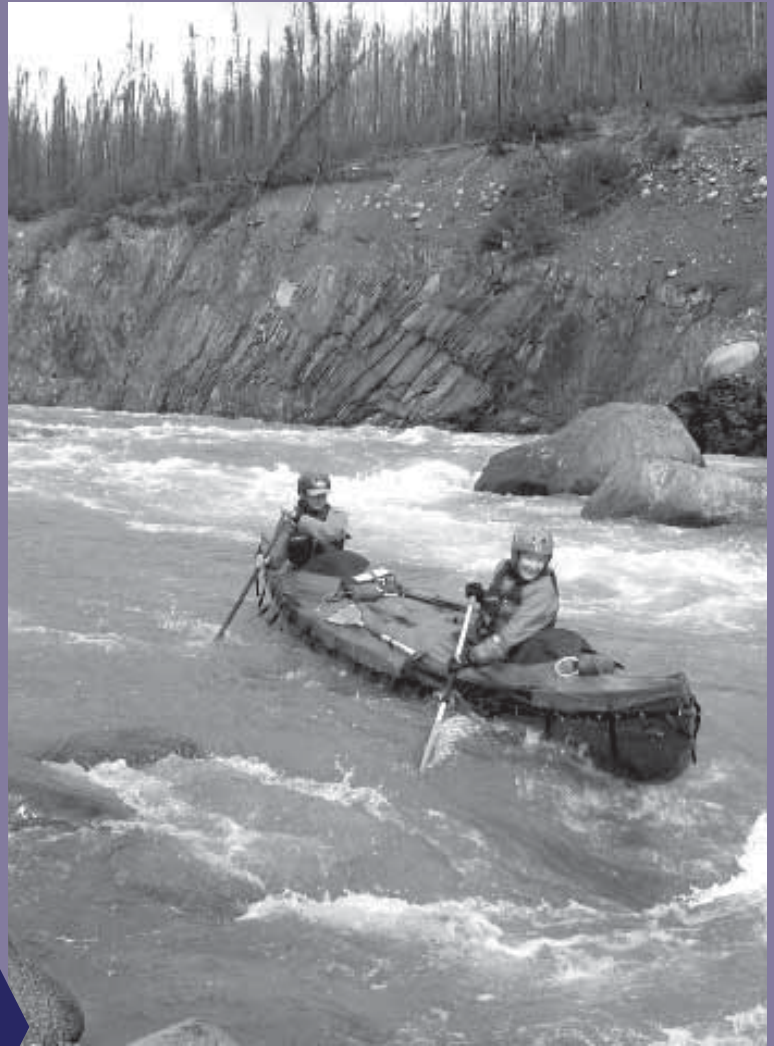
In August 2012, the Prime Minister travelled to Norman Wells, NWT on his annual northern tour and announced the establishment of a new national park reserve called Nááts'ihch'oh, surrounding the headwaters of the Nahanni River. This is an important next step towards our goal of protecting the South Nahanni River Watershed, following on the 2009 expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve.

However, the government's proposed park boundary fell short of what CPAWS and the Sahtu Dene and Metis -- in whose traditional territory the area is located -- were looking for because it left out critical areas for conservation, including key habitat for caribou and grizzly bears, and the Little Nahanni River.

We continue to encourage the government to respect conservation science and the interests of the local indigenous communities in determining the park boundary. CPAWS has been working to protect the Nahanni watershed for over forty years, and we don't plan on stopping until the job's done!

For more information,
visit www.cpawsnwt.org/campaigns/naatsihchoh

Canoeing in Nááts'ihch'oh
Photo: Blackfeather



Give a wild gift!

Support CPAWS while you do your shopping this holiday season, with cards, mugs, toques and more at the Go Wild Gift store.

gowildgifts.org 
1-800-333-WILD



B.C.'s Youth Leading the Way

Nearly 100 B.C. youth are on their way to becoming young leaders in conservation, thanks to innovative programs over the past 2 years developed by CPAWS-BC and partners, including BC Parks, Parks Canada, Mountain Equipment Co-op and VanCity.

For two years, CPAWS-BC has been running Get Outside BC, a collaborative youth leadership project that strengthens their connections with nature. The project helps B.C.'s youth experience nature, and gain the capacity to inspire others to spend more time in the great outdoors.

We also launched Take Back the Wild in 2012, a youth advocacy training program that provides professional workshops on community engagement, government relations and media relations. This program is designed to empower B.C.'s youth to play an active role in shaping their own and their province's future.

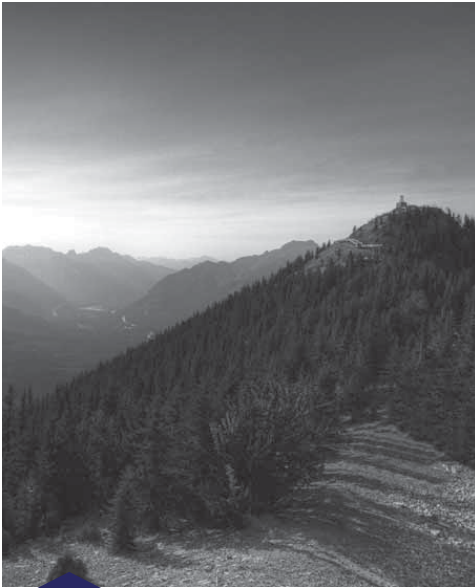
None of our leadership programs would be possible without the generous contributions of our donors. Thanks to everyone who has supported us – you're helping us to engage, empower and educate the next generations of leaders!

- Nicola Hill



Participants in Get Outside BC 2012

Shaping the future of Alberta's landscape



Banff
Photo: Genevieve Parise

It may sound dry, but land use planning is where it's at for CPAWS Southern and Northern Alberta chapters these days. And it is far from dry! Both Alberta chapters are devoting resources to land use plans in their regions that will shape the future of

the province's natural places for decades to come.

In Southern Alberta, the chapter is focusing on the regional plan for the South Saskatchewan watershed. Our main objectives are to increase the extent of protected areas in the region – particularly the Castle Special Place and our grasslands. We're also speaking out for better forestry practices, better implementation of the provincial grizzly bear recovery plan, and a stronger voice for local communities.

The Alberta Government will be engaging in a public consultation process throughout this planning process – visit www.cpaaws-southernalberta.org for information on how you can participate and help shape the future of the Alberta landscape.

In Northern Alberta, CPAWS will be continuing to work with government and

industry on caribou recovery strategy planning, establishing clear standards for land disturbance, and monitoring cumulative effects related to human disturbance, now that the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan has finally been released. This plan covers the oil sands region, and is under tremendous pressure. Before the plan was finalized, CPAWS Northern Alberta and other conservation groups met with government officials to push for the inclusion of conservation values in the plan and to advocate for the protection of critical wildlife habitat in the region.

We still don't feel the plan adequately addresses the protection of critical habitat for caribou, but it does call for six new protected areas and also designates part of the Dillon range as a Wildland Park. Our work continues!

- Anne Marie Syslak and Kelly Sloan

Better Protection for Caribou: Manitoba's Green Plan

Working directly with Manitoba's Conservation Minister, CPAWS helped achieve a precedent-setting direction for caribou conservation in the province. Tomorrow Now: Manitoba's Green Plan commits the province to basing its caribou recovery strategy on "conservation of scale-appropriate, intact habitat" which is a significant step forward. Protecting large, healthy boreal habitats is the only proven method of ensuring long-term caribou survival. The plan also outlines a commitment to expanding the area of certain provincial parks and creating 15 new parks and protected areas by 2020. Developing a Manitoba Boreal Plan "to ensure protection and sustainable development to find the right balance" is also on the province's agenda.

CPAWS Manitoba is working closely with the Manitoba government on developing all of these initiatives. Our aim is to make certain that we achieve the best results for conservation and communities. For more information, visit www.cpawsemb.org/mb-green-plan.

- Ron Thiessen



Caribou
Photo: Ron Thiessen

Mega Mines Threaten Ontario's Boreal Wilderness and Caribou

CPAWS is raising public awareness about the potential impacts of mega mining projects in Ontario's Ring of Fire region. We're concerned that these projects are moving forward without full regional environmental assessments, public hearings or full participation of local First Nations. The Government of Ontario so far has failed to live up to its own commitment to "getting it right" in the Ring of Fire.

The danger is that without a comprehensive regional assessment for the area, mine projects and their associated infrastructure could cause harm to wild rivers and the species that rely on them, from fish to caribou, and to the food sources of local First Nations. CPAWS is committed to changing this by working with concerned scientists and others, and by helping ensure that First Nations have their voices heard. We can't afford to see the mistakes of other massive non-renewable resource extraction projects, like the oil sands, replicated here in Ontario.

- Anna Baggio

Progress Towards Sustainable Forestry in Newfoundland

The CPAWS Newfoundland chapter has been working with other partners in the province to promote more sustainable forestry, in keeping with similar efforts by other CPAWS chapters across Canada. In 2012 we helped to form the Newfoundland and Labrador regional working group for the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA). Along with other members of the working group, and in partnership with Cornerbrook Pulp and Paper Ltd., we're working on designating areas of deferral from cutting on tenured lands, to help protect the regional population of woodland caribou. We're very excited to be taking on an active role with the CBFA in our province, and we're looking forward to working with our partners in industry to achieve our common goals of conserving critical caribou habitat, and sustaining the forest industry.

- Suzanne Dooley

Bou makes a friend!

To celebrate Earth Day 2012, CPAWS-Quebec joined 250,000 people at an unprecedented gathering in Montréal, rallying for better protection of Québec's nature and wildlife. The crowded buses and congested streets delayed us a bit, but we were eventually able to join up with our volunteers at the event. We had a little surprise for everyone – we brought our caribou mascot, Bou. Young and old rushed to get their picture taken with Bou, and eagerly signed our petition to help protect this endangered species. It was a wonderful day, full of energy and fun.

Bou even made himself a new friend – another caribou! Comet, Bou's new friend, joined with us to talk to people about caribou and to help us build support for protecting the species. Comet now wanders the streets of Québec City, so keep an eye out for him the next time you're there.

If you haven't had the chance to meet Bou or to learn what CPAWS is doing to protect caribou and their habitat, visit www.caribouandyou.ca. Thanks to our volunteers and all those who have shown their support for the protection of woodland caribou!

- Marie-Ève Allaire

Bou and Comet



Mapping our way from Algonquin to the Adirondacks

The surprisingly wild corridor that stretches from Algonquin Park in Ontario to Adirondack Park in New York, just east of Toronto and west of Ottawa, is under growing threat from urban and industrial development and infrastructure expansion. This development is taking place with little or no recognition of the region's ecological importance and the value of connectivity between the two parks.

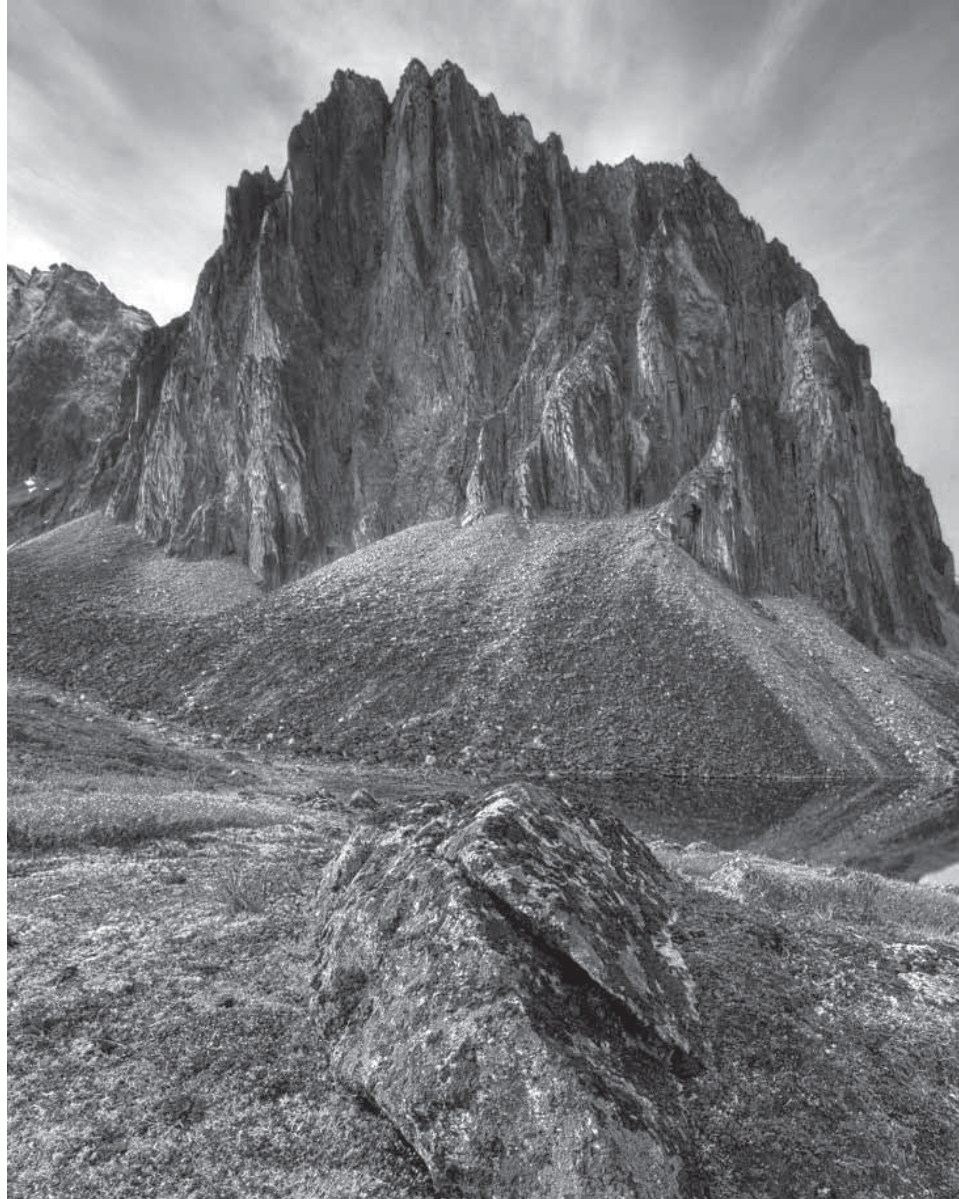
The CPAWS Ottawa Valley chapter has developed a series of maps to illustrate some of the key connections in the region to help inform decisions that could negatively impact the A2A corridor. Moving forward, we'll be providing input into the design of new and existing roads in the area to reduce impacts on wildlife and connectivity, and will also be mapping individual connections and developing a comprehensive report on the region to help raise awareness of the vital importance of the A2A link.

Visit our website at www.cpaws-ov-vo.org to view the maps and to learn more about the A2A mapping initiative.

- John McDonnell

Tea Lake in Algonquin Park
Photo: Emily Smith





Mining inside a Yukon park?

When Tombstone Park was first established in the Yukon, many thought that mining claims within the park's borders would quietly disappear, but that hasn't been the case. Year after year, Canadian United Minerals, a junior mining company with claims in the park, has proposed carrying on with exploration operations in the park.

Thanks to the overwhelming support of hundreds of CPAWS supporters across the country who came to the park's defense in 2012, the Yukon government put a stop to the most recent proposal, based on recommendations from the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board, and mining within the park was kept at bay once more. The question still remains: should these claims be allowed within park boundaries? We think not, and will continue to be a strong voice against industrial activities within park borders!

- Jody Overduin



Tombstone
Photo: Robert Potsma

New Brunswick's Last Wild Watershed

The Restigouche Wilderness is one of eastern Canada's most spectacular wild watersheds, but less than half a percent of it is protected from development. This is staggeringly out of line with its ecological importance. The New Brunswick government is identifying candidate protected areas for the Restigouche and other parts of Crown land, and CPAWS is recommending that at least 10% of Restigouche public land be designated in protected areas.

Let's make sure the Restigouche Wilderness receives the permanent protection it deserves. We need voices from inside and outside the province to encourage government to take wilderness protection seriously. CPAWS has already garnered the support of over 11,000 people who want to see the wildest parts of the Restigouche protected – join us in defending this special place. Visit www.cpawnsb.org for more information and to find out how you can show your support.

- Roberta Clowater



Restigouche
Photo: Roberta Clowater

Nova Scotia Protects Chignecto Wilderness

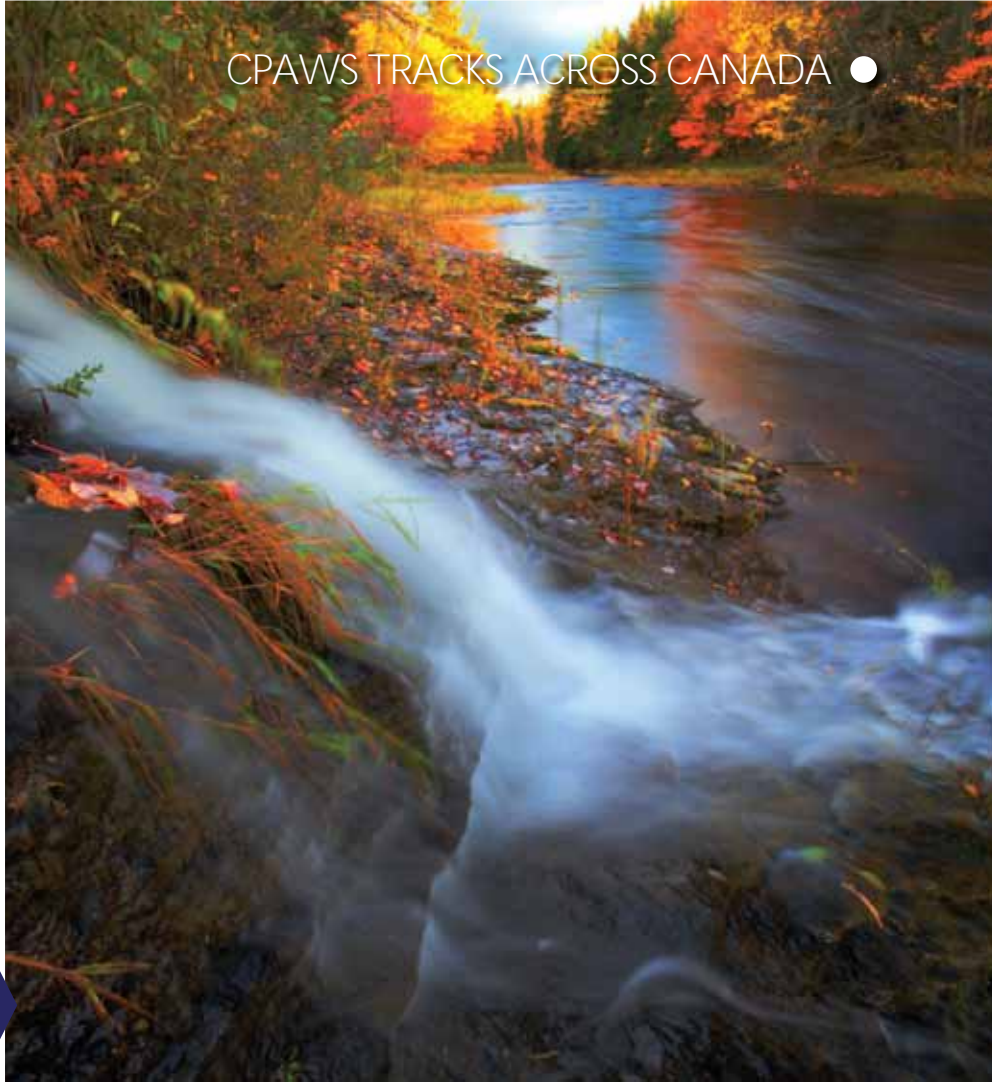
One of the largest remaining wilderness areas in Nova Scotia was recently protected! In June 2012, the Nova Scotia government announced two new, large protected areas at Chignecto, located in the northern portion of the province. This is the largest new protected area in the province in more than a decade.

CPAWS has worked for many years to secure permanent protection for this ecological jewel. We want to thank the hard working folks at Cumberland Wilderness for their tireless efforts to conserve the vast forests and coastline at Chignecto so that future generations of Nova Scotians can enjoy this spectacular wilderness.

The new protected areas at Chignecto contain vast swaths of intact forests, entire watersheds, significant rivers and coastal wetlands, old-growth forest, and critical habitat for the endangered mainland moose and wood turtle. It also protects over 40 kilometres of wilderness coastline along the Bay of Fundy.

- Chris Miller

Chignecto
Photo: Irwin Barrett



MEC and CPAWS rally Canadians to dare to be deep

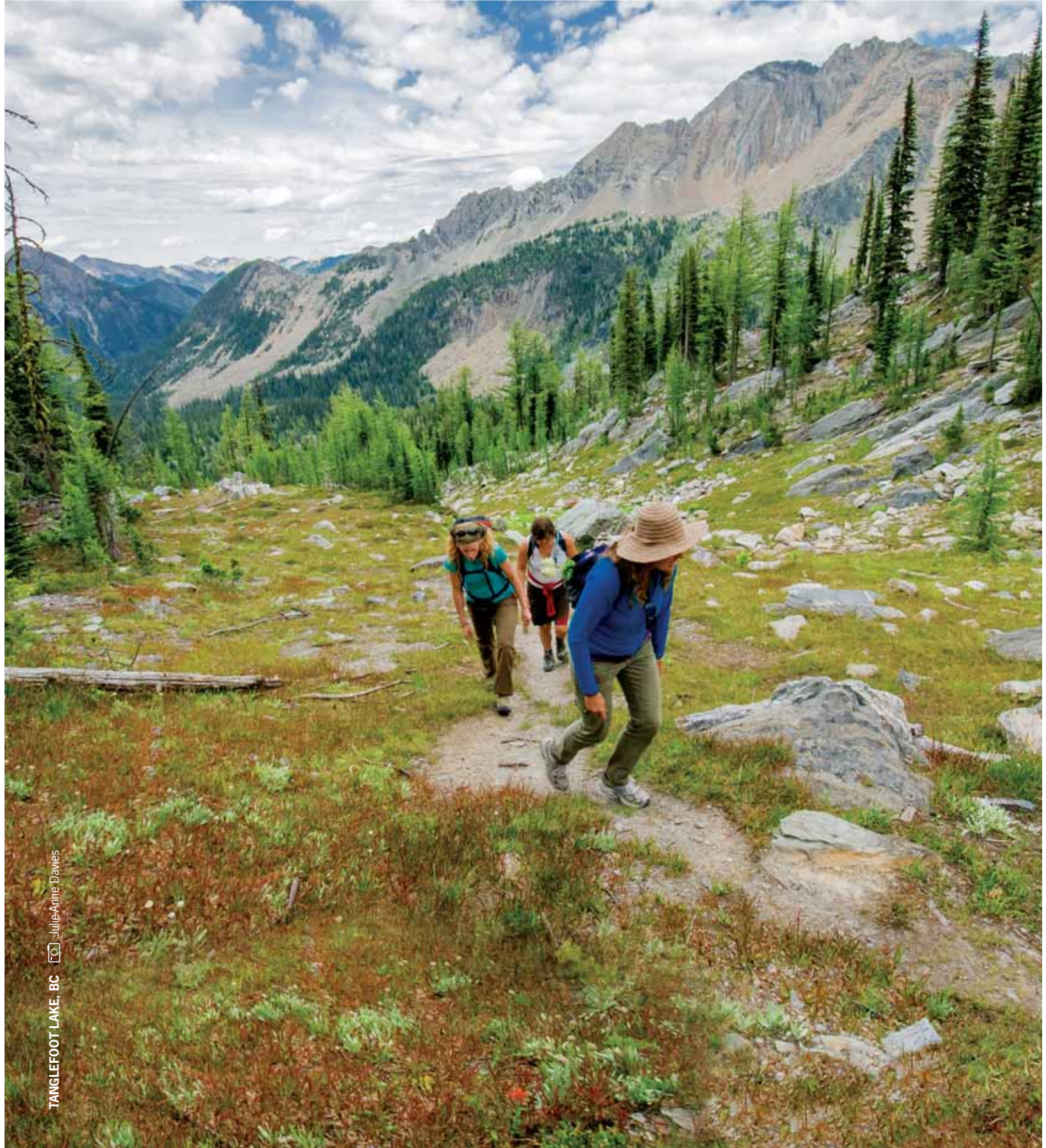
We want to thank Mountain Equipment Co-op for being an amazing partner on our 2012 "Dare to be Deep" campaign, by sharing our goal of signing on 12,000 people in support of establishing 12 new marine protected areas in Canada by December 2012. MEC generously donated a portion of proceeds from sales of its dry bags towards our conservation work. It also sweetened the deal by offering a stand-up paddleboard package and three \$200 gift cards as prize incentives. Thanks to this generous support, we were able to not only reach our goal but to blow it out of the water – so to speak!

Congratulations to all of our lucky winners and thanks to all of our supporters for helping us demonstrate how important ocean conservation is to all Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

For more information on the Dare to be Deep campaign and our ocean conservation work, visit www.daretobedeep.ca.

(L to R) Ghislaine Deschambault (Dare to be Deep Grand Prize Winner), Marie-Eve Allaire (SNAP Québec), and Geneviève Lanteigne (MEC staff)





TANGLEFOOT LAKE, BC © Julie-Anne Davies

PROUD PARTNERS

For more than 20 years MEC and CPAWS have been working together to ensure there are always places to play, inspire, and sustain us.

