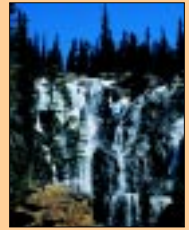




Wilderness Activist

CPAWS NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

In this issue:



*Jasper National
Park*

- Oil-and-gas projects pose serious threat
- Chapter hot spots
- Boreal program
- *Action Items*

Is the Federal Government Lost in the Woods?

Canada is in danger of seeing its commitment to protecting national parks fade to nothing but words on paper. With no money in the December 2001 federal budget for taking the steps needed to better manage our parks or to finish the national parks system, the outlook for our national parks – from Nahanni to PEI – is looking increasingly grim.

This is not the response the government promised in March 2000 when it received the recommendations of the blue-ribbon panel on the ecological integrity of Canada's national parks. The panel, which spent more than a year looking at how well our national parks were

fulfilling their role of protecting habitats, species and ecosystems, found that almost every park was facing significant internal or external stresses and warned

that without immediate action the problem would only get worse.

Heritage Minister Sheila Copps embraced the panel's recommendations to make ecological integrity – the protection of the natural values and ecosystems in parks – the overarching goal of the park system. And she said Parks Canada would fully implement the panel's recommendations.

Since that time,

(continued on page 8)



While Parks Canada struggles with a dwindling budget, national parks such as Nahanni (above) face numerous development pressures.

Resource developments encroach on Nahanni

In 1978, the United Nations named Nahanni National Park Reserve in southwestern NWT as the world's first natural World Heritage Site. This is an international designation that puts this spectacular area of wild rivers, waterfalls, unusual karst land formations, boreal forest, woodland caribou and grizzly bears on par with places like the Grand Canyon and the Great Barrier Reef.

Yet almost since the day the park reserve was officially established in 1976, there has been interest in expanding the

protected area to include ecologically significant areas outside its current boundaries. (Nahanni will continue to have park reserve status until land claims in the area are settled).

But while talk about expansion has continued on and off for the past two decades, the world has not stood still. Today, Nahanni is being pinched on all sides by resource developments that are pressing closer and closer to the park.

(continued on page 12)



by David Thomson, President and Stephen Hazell, Executive Director

These are frustrating and often baffling times for environmentally minded Canadians. In the past few months we have seen disappointing signals from the federal government on their commitments to complete the national parks system, protect nature in

existing parks and legally protect the habitat of endangered species, despite overwhelming public support for these initiatives. It is hard not to conclude that the federal government appears to be increasingly unconcerned about protecting wilderness.

First, the federal budget in December completely overlooked national parks despite the fact that the government is publicly committed to completing the parks system and implementing the March 2000 recommendations of the Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks. And although reinvestment in national parks – after years of cuts – is the number-one conservation priority of a green budget coalition of environmental groups (including CPAWS), not one new penny was committed to national parks.



Stephen Hazell (left) and David Thomson

The next federal budget will likely not be delivered until February 2003. In the meantime, Parks Canada will have no money to establish new planned parks such as Southern Gulf Islands (B.C.), Manitoba Lowlands and Wolf Lake (Yukon), nor marine conservation areas such as Gwaii Haanas (B.C.) and Lake Superior (Ontario). As well, there will be no new funding to address the significant threats to nature in national parks, such as invasive species, air and water pollution, and logging and mining near park boundaries.

Second, in February 2002, the government gutted the proposed *Species at Risk Act* of key amendments proposed by the all-party House of Commons committee that studied the bill. More Canadians (including 20,000 CPAWS supporters) wrote letters, faxed, e-mailed and called Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Minister of the Environment David Anderson and local members of Parliament on this issue than for any other issue in recent memory. The committee's key amendments represent a compromise but do address CPAWS' primary concern that critical habitat on federal lands be automatically protected and that the process for listing species be based on science not politics. Barring some last-minute change in the government's position, neither amendment will be included in the new law.

Third, lawyers representing Hon. Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage, have her backing away from the new *Canada National Parks Act* requirement that ecological integrity be the first priority in managing national parks. In CPAWS' court case to stop the winter road through Wood Buffalo National Park (see sidebar on page 8), her lawyers argued that this legal commitment does not limit the minister's authority to approve developments (e.g., roads, hotels) in

(continued on page 14)



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



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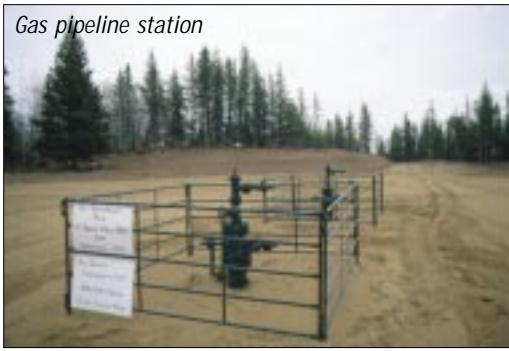
CPAWS NATIONAL OFFICE

Suite 506, 880 Wellington St.,
Ottawa, Ont., K1R 6K7
(613) 569-7226; 1(800) 333-WILD
fax (613) 569-7098
info@cpaws.org | www.cpaws.org

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John O'Driscoll

Gas pipeline station



Sam Gunsch

Oil-and-Gas Development in Canada Threatens Wilderness from Coast to Coast to Coast

This past year has seen an explosion of interest in developing oil-and-gas reserves in Canada. Across the country, concern is building about what these projects will mean for wildlife and wilderness.

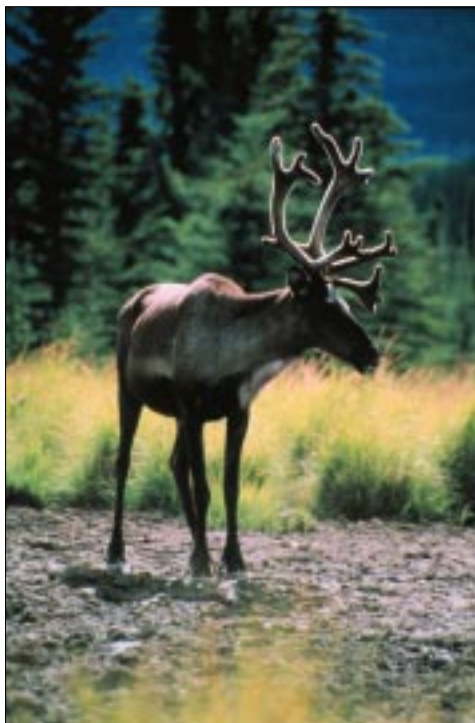
In Atlantic Canada, plans are underway to develop gas reserves off Cape Breton Island in areas rich in marine life. In British Columbia, there is talk of lifting the moratorium on oil-and-gas exploration and development and to start drilling in the offshore near the Queen Charlotte Islands. The quest to develop – at great cost to the boreal forest and its wildlife – the vast oil sands of northeastern Alberta is in full swing. In Saskatchewan, the Great Sand Hills, which contain the largest area of native prairie left in the province, are also threatened by oil-and-gas development. (See sidebar on page 5 for more details.) And proposals to build a pipeline to bring gas from the Mackenzie Delta and Alaska to southern Canadian and American markets through the northern territories are looming.

Wayne Sawchuk

CPAWS is working to ensure that this oil-and-gas feeding frenzy does not cut off opportunities to protect important and ecologically valuable wilderness. In British Columbia, CPAWS has been intervening in hearings on an undersea natural gas pipeline proposal linking Vancouver Island to the mainland as well as working to protect the spectacular Northern Rockies from the impacts of oil-and-gas development. CPAWS chapters in Calgary-Banff, Edmonton and Saskatchewan have been working for years to minimize the impact of oil-and-gas development on existing protected areas as well as on wilderness that still needs protection. In the Yukon and NWT, working on oil-and-gas development issues has become a top priority as the pressure builds.

For those who have been involved in protecting Canadian wilderness for many years, the prospect of a pipeline cutting across the north represents a kind of *déjà vu*. Thirty

years ago, in the midst of an “energy crisis,” high prices and a quest for a secure supply of North American energy, the United States cast its eyes north and proposed a pipeline across the northern Yukon from Alaska to the Mackenzie Delta and down the Mackenzie Valley.



Pipeline development can affect caribou herds and other wildlife.

This led to the Berger Inquiry during which Justice Thomas Berger travelled across the Yukon and NWT to study the social and environmental impacts of the pipeline proposal. What Justice Berger heard was a clear message that most Aboriginal people were opposed to a pipeline being constructed before their land claims had been settled. His final report, released in 1977, recommended a 10-year moratorium on building a pipeline in the Mackenzie Valley while Aboriginal land claims were settled.

Justice Berger also called for a permanent ban on pipeline development across the North Slope of the Yukon because it would cause irreparable harm to caribou herds and other wildlife and to the people who have relied on the caribou for generations. As a result, the Canadian government set aside a vast area of the north Yukon as Ivvavik National Park and later added

the adjoining Vuntut National Park.

A quarter century later, the government of the United States is once again fixated on solving its energy problems by tapping into ever-more-remote fossil fuel sources. Its president and vice president, both elected with the strong backing of the oil industry, see expanding fossil-fuel production as the answer to making access to energy “secure” for the American public and industry.

The difference today is that most land claims by Aboriginal people in the Mackenzie Valley have been settled and First Nations are much more interested in taking advantage of the economic opportunities that oil-and-gas development may bring. The result is a rush to propose pipeline routes that

(continued on page 4)

will feed the American and Canadian appetite for cheap fossil fuel. The possible routes for gas pipelines include an Alaska Highway route from northern Alaska through the Yukon, linking with the existing gas distribution system in northern B.C., and a Mackenzie Valley route from the Mackenzie Delta up the valley to northern Alberta. A third “over-the-top” pipeline route would bring Alaskan gas across the ice-scoured bed of the Beaufort Sea, pick up Mackenzie Delta gas and then continue up the Mackenzie Valley.

The competition among industry and government players is intense and may lead to a headlong race to get a pipeline built without adequate consideration of the consequences for ecosystems and traditional ways of life.

What are the potential impacts of pipeline development in the north? Constructing and operating pipelines means building access roads and related infrastructure such as compressor stations. These disturbances divide the landscape into smaller, less useful habitat areas. And a steel pipe snaking through thousands of kilometres of wilderness can create serious barriers to the movement of wildlife, especially migratory species such as caribou. After operations begin, there is the risk of a pipeline rupture due to frost heaving in punishing northern conditions. But by far the largest impacts on wilderness from a northern pipeline will come from the development needed to keep the pipe filled over its lifespan.

A Mackenzie Valley pipeline will be filled with gas from the Mackenzie Delta – a sensitive, wildlife-rich environment important as a staging area for millions of birds. Exploring and extracting oil and gas requires cutting seismic lines, building roads, creating networks of smaller feeder pipes, building drilling platforms and gas-processing plants and developing the supporting infrastructure such as power lines, service areas, waste-handling facilities, etc. The Mackenzie Delta and Valley under a full development scenario face major losses of biodiversity and wilderness.

The Yukon faces similar potentially catastrophic changes. Since 1999, the Yukon government has been inviting companies to purchase exploration leases in the north. CPAWS has been frustrated by a lack of adequate public consultation in this allocation of development rights to industry. Efforts to convince the Yukon government to complete protected-areas

planning and land-use planning in advance of development, or even to defer opening areas of high conservation value to development until these processes are complete, have been largely ignored.

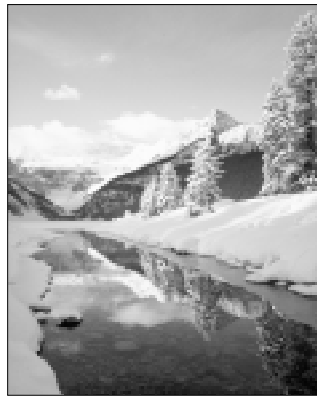
CPAWS’ position on northern oil-and-gas development is clear – conservation must come first. There will not be a second chance to protect wilderness because oil-and-gas development will foreclose conservation opportunities.

Only by weighing development and conservation in equal measure will the North protect its wilderness, wildlife, way of life – and enjoy a healthy economy in the future.

In both the Yukon and NWT, protected areas strategies are in the early stages of implementation. A network of protected areas must be identified and reserved for legal protection prior to the development of northern oil-and-gas resources or use of the North for a pipeline. Equally important is the establishment of a management regime for the intervening landscape that ensures that the cumulative impacts to the land are minimized, and that overall environmental health is maintained.

CPAWS-NWT and Yukon, in partnership with other northern conservation organizations, have set out a northern statement of principles for oil-and-gas development (available at www.cpaws.org/news/northern-oilgas-dev-2001-1011.html), which stresses the need to address ecological protection before development occurs.

And then there is the direct link between oil-and-gas development and climate-change issues. Oil-and-gas development as the “upstream” part of the equation results in direct threats to wilderness. “Downstream” in this process is climate change – the ultimate result of our addiction to fossil fuels, which threatens ecosystems globally. While we are actively engaged in directly protecting wilderness from oil-and-gas development, we are also exploring the implications of climate change to the work that we do across the country. Over the next year we will be producing educational materials about climate change and wilderness in Canada and we will keep you up to date on the results of our work both upstream and down. 🐾



If the moratorium on oil-and-gas exploration and development is lifted in B.C., offshore drilling near the Queen Charlotte Islands (above with basking sea lions) may soon begin. As well, a proposed pipeline threatens Canada's North, a wildlife-rich landscape.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ➤

➤ To learn more about the impact of climate change on natural areas and what we can do, download *British Columbia's Parks in the Greenhouse: Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Parks* (2001) from the B.C. chapter's website at www.cpawsbc.org/publications/backgrounders. (The report is an Acrobat PDF.)

Drilling hot spots – on land and offshore

Great Sand Hills

The Great Sand Hills represent the largest area of native prairie left in Saskatchewan (larger than Grasslands National Park) and harbour a wide spectrum of plants and animals. The area has been used by ranchers to graze cattle for generations. In the 1990s, these ranchers led the drive to increase protection for the area and involved four local municipalities in drafting a unique cooperative land-use plan for the Hills. The plan contains three zoning categories designating areas that are open to development, areas that are sensitive to development and areas that are off limits to development. Unfortunately, one of the four municipalities has now decided that it wants to walk away from this cooperative agreement and open protected areas under its jurisdiction to oil-and-gas drilling. As a result, up to 20% of the currently protected areas in the Great Sand Hills could be lost to oil-and-gas drilling. This departure sets a dangerous precedent for the rest of the Sand Hills, as protection could be quickly stripped away from other areas in exchange for short-term gains from oil-and-gas production. CPAWS-Saskatchewan is urging the municipal and provincial governments to stand by the existing protection plan for this very special piece of original prairie. ➤ Add your voice by contacting Minister Ron Osika, Municipal Affairs, Culture and Housing, Legislative Building, Regina, Sask., S4S 0B3; phone (306) 787-7342; fax (306) 787-1669.



Exploration off of Nova Scotia is rushing ahead with little concern about how it will affect fisheries and tourism operations.

of private land lying between the Whaleback protected area and the Oldman River. The prospect of sour-gas drilling on the very edge of such an important protected area is alarming given the environmental and health risks associated with sour-gas production. The Whaleback deserves better. ➤ Contact Premier Klein and let him know that you want the whole of the Whaleback is protected from industrial development: Premier Ralph Klein, 307 Legislation Building, 10800 - 97th Ave., Edmonton, Alta., T5K 2B7; phone (780) 427-2251; fax (780) 427-1349; e-mail Premier@gov.ab.ca.

Cape Breton

Oil-and-gas exploration off of Cape Breton and Nova Scotia is rushing ahead with little assessment of the potential for disturbance to fisheries or tourism operations and little or no public consultation. Already, the province's Petroleum Board has handed out licences covering 7.3 million hectares off the province's coast – an area larger than the landmass of the province itself. First Nations, fishermen, environmentalists and tour operators have all protested the prospect of more seismic tests, drilling and pipelines spreading across offshore areas, but the provincial government seems to have adopted a gold-rush mentality that pushes all other values aside in the search for more oil and gas. Meanwhile, efforts to create a system of marine protected areas have barely left the dock and already options are being severely limited.

Recently, two licenses for exploration have been granted in areas that run right up to the Cape Breton shore in one of the richest marine areas for groundfish, lobster, crab and oysters remaining on the East Coast. Oil companies are planning to undertake seismic exploration with powerful underwater air guns and exploratory drilling in one of the few areas where Atlantic cod populations are actually thought to be recovering.

Fishing in the area supports more than 20,000 people and is worth several billion dollars in yearly economic activity, while current oil-and-gas activities in Nova Scotia, including intensive drilling around Sable Island, has barely produced 1,000 jobs. If oil drilling goes ahead in the area, rigs will be closer to shore here than anywhere else in the world where offshore drilling is allowed. ♻️

Whaleback

The montane landscape of the Whaleback in southern Alberta was a big focus for conservationists in Alberta and across Canada in the 1990s. Hopes soared when the provincial Energy and Resources Conservation Board issued a groundbreaking decision advocating that protected-area planning precede any attempt to open the area to drilling. It took five more years to actually secure full protection for the Whaleback, but in 1999 Premier Ralph Klein finally declared the area officially protected. One of Canada's best remaining examples of montane ecosystems seemed secure. But the issue that started the debate about the future of the Whaleback – sour-gas drilling – has returned. Polaris Resources Ltd. and Ricks Nova Scotia Ltd. are proposing to drill a deep sour-gas well in a thin strip

by Anne Janssen,
National Boreal
Coordinator



CPAWS' efforts to raise awareness about the importance of our boreal forests and to get areas protected on the ground are gaining momentum. National Conservation Director George Smith is now turning his attention to our national boreal campaign. Most recently, George was at the forefront of shaping the innovative Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan in B.C.'s spectacular Northern Rockies, which he discusses in the sidebar to the right. We recently held a Land-Use Planning meeting with First Nations from across Canada to talk about our common goals, values and concern for the boreal forests. CPAWS is committed to working with First Nations

in ensuring they are part of and benefit from all decisions regarding land use in their traditional territories. The meeting was a great success and helped strengthen our understanding and opportunities for collaboration with



Alan Appleby

Boreal Coordinator Anne Janssen (right) and Collen Rickard, Executive Director of CPAWS-Saskatchewan, on the Churchill River.

local communities around the North.

In this issue of *Wilderness Activist* you will also find our first boreal factsheet that will give you a quick overview of our goals and aspirations for Canada's boreal forest. Many of you may wonder why CPAWS is focusing so much effort on the boreal region. We've addressed that question in this column as well and added some good news about three significant new protected areas in Saskatchewan's northern boreal. 🐾

➤ For more about the boreal and our efforts to protect it, please see our website at www.cpaws.org/boreal.

A Boreal Model?



The Northern Rockies holds North America's greatest combined abundance and diversity of large wild mammals.

by George Smith, National Conservation Director

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (MKMA) in northern B.C. offers hope for those of us who want to do the right thing for the people and critters of Canada's boreal forest.

The vast 6.3 million-hectare (16 million-acre) MKMA was created by the British Columbia government through a series of land-use decisions made between 1997 and 2001. This dramatic wilderness lies in the Northern Rocky and Cassiar Mountains and holds North America's greatest combined abundance and diversity of large wild mammals. Like much of Canada's boreal forest, the Muskwa-Kechika is essentially roadless. Traditionally, the area has been used by few people other than the Kaska Dena and members of the Treaty Eight First Nations along with some non-Aboriginal recreationists, trappers and guide outfitters. Recently the oil-and-gas, logging and mining industries have been moving northward onto the land.

The MKMA resulted from three multi-year regional planning processes designed by the B.C. government. At the negotiating tables, conservationists, First Nations, industry and local governments worked hard to find mutually acceptable solutions. While meeting nobody's position fully, the resulting agreement created a real measure of peace in the region and established an ongoing process for problem solving.

The MKMA model is still new and relatively untested, but looks like a continental leap forward for conservation biology and sustainable economies. It combines large core parks in high-value natural areas with connective corridors and special management zones where environmentally sensitive industrial activity can occur.

Political commitment by the provincial government has been and remains critical. A legislated act and management plan, inclusive planning processes and financial support provide a clear foundation for the area's management. Planning is designed to happen at the watershed level with active public involvement before specific industry commitments are made. An advisory board provides oversight and dollars for research and monitoring. First Nations have the greatest representation on the board, which also includes environmentalists, industry, local government and others.

Is the MKMA going to succeed? We simply don't know yet. But Canada, the boreal and the world need to experiment with new land-use models until we get it right. Our survival demands success. 🐾

Tim Stewart

**WHAT
YOU
CAN
DO** ➤

Change Is Coming to the Boreal Forest

For woodland caribou, the boreal forest is a refuge from roads and clearcuts. For bull trout, it is a refuge from dams and water diversions. For martens, it is a refuge from logged-over forests with few big old trees. What these species have found in the boreal is a largely intact forest with the natural characteristics that they depend on. In fact, Canada's boreal is one of the three largest intact frontier forest areas left in the world (the others are the Amazon rainforest and the forests of northern Russia).

But change is coming to the boreal. Development is pushing northward, bringing roads, dams, clearcuts and oil-and-gas cutlines ever deeper into the heart of the forest. As demand for resources grows, so does interest in developing previously undisturbed areas of the boreal. Areas that might once have been considered too remote or too difficult to reach to make resource extraction economical, now look more enticing as resources become increasingly scarce in more accessible areas.

The boreal is also a homeland to numerous First Nations, many of which are interested in how development can help them address social and economic challenges linked directly and indirectly to both cultural changes and isolation. Ties to the land still run deep in these communities, but there is also a growing hope that resource development will help communities deal with issues such as high levels of unemployment and access to medical care and education, and that it can help close the economic gap between native and non-native communities.

More southerly areas of the boreal region have already seen a good deal of development, with extensive road networks, cities and towns and industrial infrastructure, including timber mills, mines and hydro dams, already in place in many areas. Here the challenge will be to work with communities, First Nations and governments to re-stitch the natural fabric of the boreal and to develop a new vision of sustainable land use.

In more intact northern areas, our first instinct might be to simply

wish things could continue as they are. But First Nations, federal, territorial and provincial governments have all made it clear that they support some level of increased development in these forests. From an environmental perspective, we have two choices: We can protest development and remain on the sidelines while industry-focused initiatives continue to unfold in the northern boreal. Or we can do our best to push the processes and those involved to achieve better outcomes – outcomes that will protect the values of these vast forests while addressing the very real needs of First Nations.

We have an opportunity in the northern boreal to take a new and better approach to a huge, intact natural area and, for the first time, to put the need to conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity at the top of the planning agenda. Right now, our priority is comprehensive land-use planning that reflects the large and dynamic ecosystems of the boreal region. We believe that such planning must precede any industrial

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Kenogami River in Ontario is surrounded by magnificent boreal forest.

Anna Baggio

Big Protection for Northern Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan has taken a step forward in protecting some of its most northern boreal forests. In May 2001, three large new protected areas were created along the province's northern boundary, protecting a total of more than 600,000 hectares of boreal forest. The new parks are in the Athabasca natural region, a rugged landscape underlain by glacial bedrock and marked by bluffs and hills interspersed with numerous lakes and rivers. This region has a near-arctic character and is the winter home of the quarter-million animals of the Beverley and Quamanirjuag barren ground caribou herds. There is even a well-founded belief that grizzly bears may wander into the area from the barrens to the north from time to time. The designation of these large new sites right on the NWT border offers a great chance for some cross-border cooperation with the territory to expand protection in the region. CPAWS has worked closely with the Prince Albert Grand Council to pave the way for the designation of these new parks and is now working with the Council and the provincial government to research other new candidate protected areas. 🐾

opportunities to move boldly on the need to protect existing parks and to speed up the establishment of new parks have come and gone, notes CPAWS Executive Director Stephen Hazell. "Over and over again, we are seeing delay and inaction at a time when we need a major push to revitalize the parks system," he says.

Hazell points out that Parks Canada's budget has been cut by more than \$100 million – 25% of its total budget – since 1993. Not only does Parks Canada have less money to cover the operations of existing parks – money for scientific studies and monitoring, planning and program implementation, restoration and rehabilitation – it has actually had to dig into its operational budget to fund new park establishment, points out Alison Woodley, CPAWS Federal and Northern Campaigner. "The last four new parks that have been established have been funded through the existing budget, which has cut into Parks Canada's operating funds," she explains.

Establishing new parks requires dollars for planning, mapping and community consultations, to buy out existing property or resource rights and to implement community benefit agreements and park programs, she adds. Ensuring that parks are seen as a benefit to local communities, including First Nations, can go a long way to help secure a healthy future for the new protected areas, Hazell explains. "If Parks Canada does not come through with the dollars to implement these agreements, then support for new parks will plummet," he predicts.

The Green Budget Coalition, whose membership ranges from Ducks Unlimited to Greenpeace and includes CPAWS, has identified funding for parks as the number-one federal priority for conservation, and is seeking \$165 million over five years for eight new national parks and four new national marine conservation areas.

For existing parks, the coalition is supporting the recom-

Court Blurs Protection in National Parks Act

The task of protecting the ecological health and well-being of our national parks has not been made any easier by a court decision authorizing construction of a winter road through Wood Buffalo National Park. CPAWS went to court last fall to stop the road on the basis that it clearly violated the *National Parks Act* stipulation that the protection of ecological integrity must come first in parks management.

In an unusual and unexpected decision, the judge in the case decided that the Heritage Minister could override this requirement "based on an analysis of other interests," reports CPAWS Executive Director and General Counsel Stephen Hazell. And that, he adds, "clearly undermines the principle – which CPAWS fought to have included in the law – that ecological integrity must enjoy first priority in parks decision making."



Bison may have more than wolves to deal with if a winter road is allowed through the park.

Thanks to another court decision that found that the Mikisew Cree were not properly consulted about the road-building plans, "the road is not currently going anywhere," notes CPAWS Federal and Northern Campaigner Alison Woodley. "But the problem is it could be revived in the future if there is proper consultation with the Cree."

The good news, Hazell feels, is that the decision in the CPAWS case will not necessarily set a precedent as it is a decision of the Trial Division of the Federal Court. "CPAWS is appealing the trial judge's decision to the Federal Court of Appeal. Given the fundamental errors that the trial judge made, I am confident we will win," he says. 🐾

mendation of the ecological integrity panel that \$328 million be allocated over the next five years to get national parks off the critical list. Parks Canada has drafted a science strategy for assessing and addressing ecological health issues in parks, but it has no money to actually implement the strategy, Hazell says. Efforts to educate the public about the ecological problems that parks are facing, from small size, isolation and invasive species to overuse and illegal activities, are also stymied by a lack of funding. And interpretive programs that have introduced millions of park visitors to the wonders of the natural world have been among the most severely affected by cutbacks, Woodley adds.

One of the key findings of the ecological integrity panel was that most parks are too small by themselves to address the full needs of their animal and plant species. The panel encouraged Parks Canada to start managing parks "within the greater ecosystem and to work with governments, private land holders and others" to address the needs of

species both inside and outside park boundaries, Hazell explains. But right now Parks Canada is struggling to hold its own house together and does not have the time or resources to work effectively with its neighbours, he adds. The result is continued encroachments on parks, such as the development of a large subdivision on the front doorstep of Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta and the development of a mine in the headwaters of the Nahanni system in an area that has long been recommended for inclusion in the park (see page 1 for more).

Hazell points out that the 1997 *State of the Parks* report found that only one park in the entire national system could be considered free of major ecological problems and that 31 parks were facing "severe or significant" ecological problems. "The wheels are really coming off the bus," Hazell observes, adding "the pressures will only grow and the crisis is only going to get worse" if the federal government does not find its way out of the woods and make serious investments in parks.

While the government claims it has been forced to give the priority to addressing security and defence issues in the wake of the World Trade disaster, Hazell notes that the last budget still managed to allocate funds to numerous other initiatives, but not a penny in increased funding to parks. The irony, of course, is that if we don't act to protect our natural environment, conflicts over access to resources, clean water, clean air and a reduced quality of life are all likely outcomes.

"The \$328 million recommended by ecological integrity panel would go a long way toward moving us toward ensuring the health and well-being of our parks" and is a fraction of the cost of buying a dozen new military helicopters, he points out.

Woodley notes that the government is very close to having to walk into a number of major international conferences with empty hands. "The government will have to address this issue [of funding for parks and completing the parks system] at the upcoming international meeting to discuss progress on the Convention on Biological Diversity



Pukaskwa National Park and others need more funding to support their ecological health.

in Johannesburg, South Africa" (also known as the Rio +10 conference as it marks the tenth anniversary of the signing of the agreement at the United Nations environment conference in Rio de Janeiro). Prior to this, the Prime Minister himself has chosen the beautiful setting of Kananaskis in the mountain foothills of Alberta for the G8 Summit of developed countries. "Will the Prime Minister really want to meet in such a setting while his government continues to turn its back on the needs of parks?" Woodley wonders.

The bottom line, she adds, is that without action – and soon – "we are going to lose species from our national parks." And the opportunity to establish important new parks may also be lost, she warns. "Development is swiftly moving north, oil-and-gas exploration is spreading into the Mackenzie Valley, Yukon and northern British Columbia and cutting off opportunities to establish new parks. Opportunities to protect wilderness in an intact state will not be there" if Parks Canada has to continue standing on the sidelines waiting for a cheque that seems to have been lost in the mail, she concludes. 🐾

Gary McGuffin

Leah Eustace

Planned Giving . . . Is Gift Planning!

Help ensure young Canadians will inherit a wild Canada they deserve. Leave a legacy through a planned gift to CPAWS. You can maximize your investments, minimize your taxes and still make a charitable gift to CPAWS. Life insurance, annuities, charitable remainder trusts, endowments, securities and bequests are examples of how you can help us guarantee that Canada's wilderness and wildlife survive for generations to come.

The Gift that Gives Back

Why not consider a gift annuity? Here's how it works: CPAWS purchases an annuity on your behalf. In return, you as the donor receive a tax receipt for a portion of the gift – depending on your life expectancy – and fixed income at a level of your choosing. Let the tax-free payments begin!



Help protect Canada's wilderness for future generations.

Benefits to you include a charitable tax receipt based on the gift, strategic tax planning, and the satisfaction of seeing your gift at work in conservation and wilderness protection. CPAWS will work with your financial planner to ensure that you establish a sound plan, and a magnificent legacy.

Securities Breakthrough and Tax Tips for You!

Donate stocks, bonds, mutual funds or segregated funds to CPAWS and receive a charitable tax receipt as well as a lower capital gains inclusion rate of 25% instead of 50%. The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency recently made permanent the tax rules

that benefit charities! Donating stock instead of cash is a win-win situation for wilderness, wildlife, and you. 🐾

For more information about making a planned gift to CPAWS, please go to our website at www.cpaws.org/supportus/planned-giving or contact Sue Dunton toll-free at 1-800-333-9453.

BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAPTER

Southeastern B.C. is a spectacular landscape of mountains, valleys, lakes and rivers that is home to exceptionally high populations of wildlife and provides fantastic recreational opportunities. CPAWS-BC has submitted a proposal to Parks Canada to establish a 40,000-hectare national park reserve in the Flathead River Valley. The reserve would extend the boundaries of Waterton Lakes National Park and connect it with the proposed Southern Rocky Mountain Wildlife Management Area that is currently under consideration. This initiative would result in an important wildlife migration corridor of protected land running from Glacier National Park in the United States up through to Jasper National Park in Alberta.

These proposals present a unique opportunity to work cooperatively with community, government, and industrial users to protect the ecosystems and wildlife of the area while still preserving Aboriginal rights, local jobs, and economic interests. Between now and the end of June, the B.C. government is reviewing land use in southeastern B.C., including the proposed Waterton expansion and Wildlife Management Area. Parks Canada is a participant in this process. ➤ Take action to support the Waterton Park expansion and Wildlife Management Area by visiting www.peaceparkplus.net. ➤ Or write Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, 80 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0A2; fax (613) 941-6900 and Premier Gordon Campbell, P.O. Box 9041, STN PROV GOVT, Victoria, B.C., V8W 9E1; fax (250) 387-0087.

CALGARY/BANFF CHAPTER

In June, the G-8 Summit will be coming to the Kananaskis and the Calgary/Banff Chapter of CPAWS is working to minimize the environmental impact of the event. In addition to the eight world leaders, we will see dozens of advisers on-site and thousands of officials in Calgary and surrounding communities. Add in thousands of international media and thousands of protesters and it is a potent mix. Kananaskis Country has long been a focus of CPAWS' activity and concern, but the summit and surrounding events will offer more challenges and opportunities than we have ever seen before.

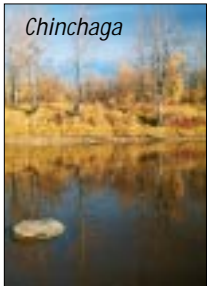
Meanwhile, things in southwestern Alberta are not standing still. A proposal for a new gas well on the southern boundary of the Whaleback protected area is bringing us back to one of the major environmental battlegrounds of the 1990s. The subdivision proposed for the boundary of Waterton Lakes National Park rolls ahead like a juggernaut. And, in between, the slow destruction of the Castle Wilderness continues.

➤ CPAWS has launched an impressive new website on the Castle: www.castlewilderness.ca. Please visit it, download our publication, and follow the links to send a message to the Alberta government on the importance of protecting the Castle.

EDMONTON CHAPTER

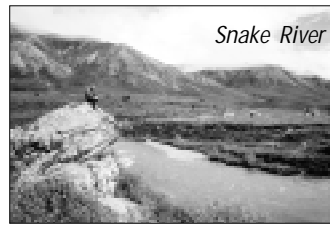
The Edmonton Chapter continues its campaign to protect the Chinchaga Wilderness in northwestern Alberta. Due to the apparent collapse of the Grande Alberta Paper pulp mill proposed for the Chinchaga forests, we are now focused on gaining support from industry and the public to expand the current Special Place protected area (880 km²) up to 10,000 km². CPAWS is also actively promoting forest certification in Alberta under the Forest Stewardship Council, which would require protection of the larger Chinchaga site.

CPAWS is also campaigning to create additional protected areas in Alberta's eastern boreal. The Birch Mountains-Leige River area, south of Wood Buffalo Park, contains a number of regionally significant features including an intact watershed, the Birch Mountains, central mixed wood transitions into the boreal highlands, a wide range of successional forest stages, and habitat for woodland caribou, a threatened species in Alberta. The second area is the Athabasca Rapids south of Fort McMurray. Recent collaboration with other Alberta conservation organizations has identified an expanded area for protection at this site. It would include the river valley, (an important biological corridor for a variety of fish and wildlife species), forested valley slopes that are critical moose wintering range, as well as the Schultz bog environmentally significant area (ESA), the Parallell Creek ESA, the Egg Lake-Agar Lake ESA and the Crow Lake ESA.



Chinchaga

Sam Gunsch



Snake River

YUKON CHAPTER

Wild and free ... that's the Snake River watershed, a tributary of the Peel River, in the heart of a great Canadian mountain ecosystem with a long cultural history, clear clean waters, free-ranging wildlife and rugged northern beauty.

Together, the rivers of the Peel River watershed – the Snake, Wind, Bonnet Plume, Ogilvie and Hart Rivers – make up one of the largest roadless areas in the Yukon. Combined with the Arctic Red River to the east they anchor a natural area of global importance. But in only two generations, one-quarter of the Yukon's wilderness has already been altered by roads and development. Conservation of nature and creation of protected areas are essential to our economic well-being and our identity. What would we be without salmon runs, caribou migrations, clean water and wild watersheds?

The Snake watershed has been used by Tetl'it Gwich'in and Nacho N'yak Dun First Nations for generations and has many important traditional and spiritual places. The plants, wildlife and fish of the region have always provided sustenance for people. That old way of life continues today. ➤ Let Premier Pat Duncan know you care and want the Snake River watershed protected as part of the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy: Premier Pat Duncan, Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6; pat.duncan@yk.gov.ca.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CHAPTER

The Greater Nahanni Ecosystem continues to be a hot spot in the Northwest Territories. Of particular concern is the Prairie Creek mine which sits just 32 kilometres north of the Nahanni National Park Reserve boundary. A recent environmental assessment found that the mine poses a significant environmental risk to the region and called on the Ministers of Canadian Heritage and Indian Affairs and Northern Development to discuss further protection for the area. However, permits for operations continue to be conditionally approved despite the multiple risks the mine poses, including: the mine is located on the floodplain, with the tailings pond and large fuel-storage tanks located within metres of the creek itself; the region is an area of high seismic (earthquake) activity – neighbouring valleys have experienced large land slides in recent years; questionable outside storage of cyanide and PCBs; no security deposit has been posted for the site; the mine's ores are heavily contaminated with mercury and arsenic; the proposed mine road would cross a sensitive karst area that has been identified as globally unique and of high conservation value. ➤ See the Nahanni article on page 1 for more information and what you can do.

SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

Saskatchewan's Representative Areas Network (RAN) program began in the early 1990s with a mandate to protect different habitats throughout Saskatchewan. The goal of the program was, and still is, a good one: to conserve Saskatchewan's native biological diversity. The RAN program has been a useful vehicle for establishing and maintaining protected wilderness areas in Saskatchewan.

Regrettably, the RAN program is now in trouble. With protection across the province only half complete, the program's workplan is old and outdated with no significant initiatives for change on the horizon. Perhaps, most disturbing, the government seems to be stepping back from its commitment to complete the RAN work in a meaningful way. Recently, we met with Premier Lorne Calvert and MLAs to discuss our concerns about the program, and to encourage action for change and renewal of the RAN plan. Response has been lukewarm and disappointing. In the wake of government decisions to aggressively pursue economic development, it is increasingly important for our government to hear that wilderness protection is important too. The RAN program needs to be revitalized and seriously promoted by government so that we can continue to establish legislated protected areas that will ensure natural areas for the future. ➤ Call or write Premier Lorne Calvert at Legislative Building, Regina, Sask., S4S 0B3; phone (306) 787-9433; fax (306) 787-0885.

Cathie Archbould



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

WILDLANDS LEAGUE CHAPTER

Roads or conservation first? In Ontario's northern boreal forest there are 28 First Nations communities, almost all of which are remote and only accessible by winter ice roads and aircraft. Many are considering whether they would like this situation to change through development of all-weather roads. Most communities, however, are also concerned about where the roads will go, what their environmental and social impacts will be and how they will be built. They also want to be actively involved in making decisions about these roads.

Enter Bob Nault, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Nault has been quoted repeatedly in the media as wanting rapid road development throughout the north. He seems to not be concerned about where the best place for these roads would be or whether their routes take into account other values. Several First Nations communities, the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, and CPAWS-Wildlands League are working to convince the minister that some of his road budget needs to flow to the community level so that proper land-use planning can precede road development.

➤ Give us your support and write to: Hon. Bob Nault, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0A6; fax (819) 953-4941.

MANITOBA CHAPTER

This year marks the tenth anniversary of CPAWS' campaign to have a national park established in the Interlake area of Manitoba. The campaign has met with both success and frustration.

Success meant getting the federal and provincial governments to agree to establish the park in the northern Interlake. An initial proposal by the two governments in 1996 was a major breakthrough, but the proposed boundaries were seriously inadequate. A second proposal in 1998 brought improvements, but still left out important components such as a significant karst area and Little Limestone Lake.

Creation of the park itself could now be in jeopardy because of growing hostility in area communities, particularly First Nations. This is due to the on-again off-again process used and the constantly changing players in the complex mix of local communities, First Nations, industry groups, and senior governments. The park is at a critical juncture. For the first time in many years, the province appears open to significantly expanded boundaries for the park. The federal government should be vigorously pressing ahead but is instead being held back because of the complete lack of funding for new parks in the last federal budget. It's time to give the feds a wakeup call. We could lose this one!

➤ Write to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien or to Heritage Minister Sheila Copps: House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0A6 (no postage required); pm@pm.gc.ca and min_copps@pch.gc.ca.



Little Limestone

Roger Turenne

NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

Off Canada's East Coast there are "thickets" of deep-sea corals at depths of 200 metres and greater. Many of Canada's corals are small, but a few create tree-like structures. A large one can be as much as three metres tall and even wider across. These seafans, as they are sometimes called, are usually attached to boulders and the resident sealife filter food from the currents of water into which the colonies face. These majestic colonies grow slowly and large ones are as ancient as large trees. Unfortunately, the coral trees are threatened by mobile fishing gears known as draggers or trawlers. In recent years new fishing methods have been devised. The draggers go deeper now and so-called "rock-hoppers" have been devised that make it possible to drag the fishing gear through fields of boulders where the corals are thickest.

With the help of marine science students, CPAWS-Nova Scotia has identified several sites at which deep-sea corals are relatively abundant. We have begun a campaign to protect these hotspots of coral abundance and diversity. Both the *Fisheries Act* and the *Oceans Act* provide legal means to protect these special sites. Many fishermen agree that the corals should be protected because they provide important habitat both for marine biodiversity and for commercial fish. ➤ More information will be posted on the soon-to-appear CPAWS-NS website.



Underwater ecosystem

Derek Jones

OTTAWA VALLEY CHAPTER & MONTREAL CHAPTER

The Quebec government is still demonstrating little concrete progress in developing and adopting its Protected Areas Strategy, which had been promised for June 2001. The government has taken a big step by committing to increase the protected areas network from the current 0.5% of the province to 8% by 2005. Quebec's wilderness needs action on the ground however, not just promises.

➤ Please write to the Quebec government to support a Quebec Protected Areas Strategy that truly protects nature. The Quebec Protected Areas Strategy must: apply to the whole territory of Quebec, including the so-called "commercial" boreal forest region; protect much more than just 8% of Quebec; create areas that are truly protected against all forms of industrial development; create protected areas that are large enough to maintain viable ecosystems.

➤ Ask Environment Minister André Boisclair to break the bureaucratic logjam that is holding back new parks and protected areas in Quebec: Mr. André Boisclair, Minister of the Environment, Marie-Guyart Building, 675 René-Lévesque Blvd East, 30th floor, Québec, QC, G1R 5V7.

SECTION MONTREAL & SECTION VALLEE DE L'OUTAOUAIS

La Stratégie québécoise sur les aires protégées (SQAP), qui compte augmenter la superficie des aires protégées au Québec de 0,5 % à 8 % d'ici 2005, devait voir le jour en juin 2001. Toutefois, après plus de six mois de retard et de nombreuses discussions avec les responsables de la SQAP, celle-ci semble toujours être à un point mort.

Le gouvernement du Québec doit respecter ses engagements et s'assurer de rendre publique la Stratégie québécoise sur les aires protégées afin que les aires protégées soient considérées dans tous les enjeux majeurs de développement du territoire, de l'aménagement et de l'exploitation des ressources. De plus, la Stratégie québécoise sur les aires protégées doit avoir comme principal objectif la véritable protection de notre patrimoine naturel.

➤ De ce fait, elle doit : créer des aires protégées qui sont réellement protégées de toute exploitation industrielle (foresterie, mines et exploitation énergétique); couvrir l'ensemble du territoire québécois - La SQAP doit assurer la protection de tous les écosystèmes naturels du Québec, incluant la forêt boréale; créer des aires protégées d'une superficie suffisante pour y maintenir des écosystèmes viables; protéger au-delà de 8 % du Québec - Certains états nord-américains qui ont une superficie similaire à celle du Québec ont protégé jusqu'à 30 % de leur territoire; protéger 8 % du Québec représente un important pas en avant pour le Québec mais le gouvernement doit s'assurer que ce pourcentage ne représente pas une fin en soi.

➤ SVP écrire à M. André Boisclair, Ministre de l'Environnement, pour exiger le déblocage de la Stratégie québécoise sur les aires protégées : 675, boulevard René-Lévesque E., 30^e étage, Québec (QC) G1R 5V7. Pour plus d'informations, contactez Brigitte Voss, Directrice générale, au bvoss@cpaws.org

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CHAPTER

How to contact us

address: P.O. Box 1934, 4th floor, 4921-49th St. Yellowknife, NWT, X1A 2P4
phone: (867) 873-9893
fax: (867) 873-9593
e-mail: cpawsnwt@theedge.ca

YUKON CHAPTER

How to contact us

address: Box 31095, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 5P7
phone: (867) 393-8080
fax: (867) 393-8081
e-mail: cpaws@cpawsyukon.org

BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAPTER

How to contact us

address: Suite 502, 475 Howe St., Vancouver, B.C., V6C 2B3
phone: (604) 685-7445
fax: (604) 685-6449
e-mail: info@cpawsbcc.org
website: www.cpawsbcc.org

CALGARY/BANFF CHAPTER

How to contact us

address: Suite 306, 319 Tenth Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alta., T2R 0A5
phone: (403) 232-6686
fax: (403) 232-6988
e-mail: info@cpawscalgary.org
website: www.cpawscalgary.org
Executive Director Dave Poulton's
e-mail: dpoulton@cpawscalgary.org
Education Director Gareth Thomson's
e-mail: gthomson@cpawscalgary.org

EDMONTON CHAPTER

How to contact us

address: P.O. Box 52031, 8210 - 109 St., Edmonton, Alta., T6G 2T5
phone: (780) 432-0967
fax: (780) 439-4913
e-mail: info@cpaws-edmonton.org
website: www.cpaws-edmonton.org



HelpWanted/ Wish List

To volunteer on the Chinchaga campaign phone 432-0967 or e-mail volunteer@cpaws-edmonton.org
* small photocopier

SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

How to contact us

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

MANITOBA CHAPTER

How to contact us

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

HelpWanted/Wish List

- * volunteers for Run & Walk for Wilderness (June 1, 2002)
- * newer model laptop computer
- * filing cabinets

WILDLANDS LEAGUE CHAPTER

How to contact us

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

HelpWanted/Wish List

- * parking space in downtown Toronto
- * office space in Thunder Bay

OTTAWA VALLEY/VALLEE DE L'OUTAOUAIS CHAPTER

How to contact us

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

HelpWanted/Wish List

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

- * computers (Pentium or newer, laptop or desktop)
- * for slideshows/presentations: digital/video projector, overhead projector, light table, large portable screen.
- * items for silent auction: art pieces and other objects of value on a nature theme

SECTION MONTREAL

Pour nous contacter

adresse: C.P. 5394, Succursale B, Montréal, Que., H3B 4P1
tél: (514) 728-5885
télé: (514) 728-2929
courriel: bvoss@cpaws.org

HelpWanted/Wish List

- * office space
- * computers (laptop, Pentium or newer)
- * colour inkjet printer
- * CD burner

NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

How to contact us

address: c/o School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S., B3H 3J5
phone: (902) 494-2966
fax: (902) 494-3728
e-mail: cpawsns@thegreenpages.ca

Nahanni (continued from page 1)

Two mining projects located just outside the current park boundaries are causing particular concern. This past December, North American Tungsten Corporation reopened the CanTung mine to the northwest of the park, which had been closed since 1986. The reopening was inauspicious – within a month of operations restarting, a serious spill of more than 23,000 litres of diesel fuel occurred at the mine site. Fortunately, the spill is not thought to have reached the nearby Flat River. (The company admitted that this spill and two previous smaller spills were caused by mine employees forgetting to shut off a valve during fuel transfers.)

An even greater concern for park advocates is a proposal

to develop a base metal mine on the northern edge of the park in the Prairie Creek Valley. The Canadian Zinc Corporation is pushing forward with a proposal to revive a project begun in the early 1980s by the Texas-based Hunt brothers during their ill-fated attempt to corner the world silver market.

“The Prairie Creek mine site is upstream from the park in a narrow creek valley. The mine infrastructure is located on the floodplain of the creek, with the mine tailings pond wall less than 10 metres from the edge of the creek,” explains CPAWS Federal and Northern Campaigner Alison Woodley. Prairie Creek flows directly into the national park and the South Nahanni River, so any contamination of the stream will contaminate park waters. The stream itself is home to

rare bull trout she adds.

The potential for ecosystem damage here couldn't be clearer, Woodley feels. The steep narrow valleys in the region are prone to flash floods. The area also has a history of serious earthquakes, which can lead to landslides and slumping along rivers and streams. (For more on the problems with the Prairie Creek mine, see the NWT hotspot on page 10.)

All the while, serious efforts to expand Nahanni have been inching forward. Parks Canada has moved from a proposal to add some small areas to the existing park to discussions of the viability of adding much larger areas in three distinct locations: the karst landscape to the north and east of the park, the Ragged Range at the north-west corner of the park, and the Tlogotsho Plateau on the park's southern borders.

One of the biggest stumbling blocks for efforts to expand the park has been the largely pro-development focus of the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), which controls land uses on federal lands outside of the park boundaries. In fact, in its ongoing review of the Prairie Creek mine proposal, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board has urged DIAND and Parks Canada to work together to determine the level of protection needed around the park to ensure its long-term ecological health, including possible buffer zones.

But Parks Canada faces its own challenges. The agency is starved for financial resources and its needs have been ignored in recent federal budgets. The deep funding cuts Parks Canada suffered during the 1990s continue to hamper the agency's ability to create new parks or expand existing ones and, in fact, have forced it to dip into its core operating budget for these tasks. (See page 1 for more on the problems at Parks Canada.)

Most of Nahanni lies within the traditional territory of the Deh Cho First Nation – Dene people who live in small communities mainly located along the Mackenzie and Liard River systems. As part of their land-management negotiations with the Government of Canada, the Deh Cho have expressed strong interest in protecting the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem, although the small Deh Cho community of Nahanni Butte has negotiated a mine-benefit agreement with Canadian Zinc. And in the northwestern reaches of the Nahanni ecosystem, the Begae Shuhtagot'ine (Mountain Dene) have put forward the northern part of the watershed as an area of interest under the Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy.



More than 400 kilometres of oil-and-gas exploration seismic lines have been cut inside the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem in the past year.

But while these conservation proposals continue to wind their way through the system, work continues at Prairie Creek and CanTung. In fact, the region remains open to further mineral staking and exploration, while oil-and-gas exploration pushes north from points south. More than 400 kilometres of oil-and-gas exploration seismic lines have been cut inside the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem in the past year. There is now a proposal to use air guns mounted on barges to explore for oil and gas by shooting massive sound pulses along the South Nahanni and Liard Rivers just south of the park boundary.

It could all add up to death by a thousand cuts for one of the world's most spectacular protected areas unless governments start cooperating and focus on the need to ensure protection of the park's ecosystems, notes Greg Yeoman, conservation director for CPAWS-NWT. "The status quo is unacceptable. Unless different levels of government start

working together to protect the entire Greater Nahanni Ecosystem, the future of Nahanni is going to be torn apart permit by permit," he concludes. 🐾

WHAT YOU CAN DO ➤

- Write the Canadian Heritage Minister Sheila Copps and Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Robert Nault and urge them to live up to the commitments of the National Park Reserve and World Heritage Site designations in Nahanni by stopping the Prairie Creek mine, and protecting the entire Greater Nahanni Ecosystem from industrial development. House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0A6 (no postage required); min_copps@pch.gc.ca; Minister Nault's fax (819) 953-4941.



Partners in Protection

Nahanni River Adventures offers guided canoe and rafting trips on the South Nahanni River. The company is supporting our Nahanni campaign by making a \$200 donation to CPAWS for every CPAWS member who participates in a Nahanni trip this summer (you would receive the charitable tax receipt). If you have ever dreamed of visiting the Nahanni or know someone who has, act now and plan to come and show your support for the National Park. You can reach Nahanni River Adventures at 1 (800) 297-6927, info@nahanni.com or visit their website at www.nahanni.com.



Thank you volunteers!

You make CPAWS successful in protecting wilderness. If you want to help CPAWS keep Canada wild please e-mail Laura

Lafantaisie at volunteer@cpaws.org or call 1-800-333-9453. We have lots of fun and rewarding work to do.

Special thanks to Elizabeth Smarzik, Mark Kelly, Sharon Campbell-Harold, Dana Langevin, Joe Buell and Julianne McLennan.

Volunteer Profile

Since May 2000, Elizabeth Smarzik has been coming into the office every Tuesday and Thursday morning to assist with a variety of office duties. Elizabeth is invaluable in the time she commits to filing tax receipts, assisting with processing credit card donations as well as numerous other tasks.



Elizabeth Smarzik

When not dedicating time to CPAWS, Elizabeth enjoys spending time outdoors going for long walks and gardening. She swims weekly and always has time for friends, family and cat Sequoyah.

Her friendly outgoing spirit is certainly a welcome addition to the National office. 🐾

Did you know that you can donate to CPAWS online? Your security is ensured through our partnership with Charity.ca. Please go to www.cpaws.org and simply click on the "Donate Now!" button.

Why I'm a WPC* Member

“ I often think about the beautiful life forms on this planet, whose habitat is being polluted and destroyed by human activity.

I wish I could DO SOMETHING to help preserve our precious environment. However, I have a job and family life that keep my days occupied.

I've discovered that although I can't help with my time, I can help with my money. I set up an automated monthly donation to CPAWS. That way, it doesn't take me any time. It feels really good to read the CPAWS newsletter and learn that a new area has been protected, or a road has been stopped (and I helped it happen). ”

Peggy Patterson, Ontario

Read more about the *Wilderness Protection Club on the back page.

Message from the President and Executive Director

(continued from page 3)

national parks. CPAWS is currently disputing this interpretation in the Federal Court of Appeal.

The situation in Ottawa is not totally bleak however. This spring, the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act* will likely be passed by the Senate and become law. While Bill C-10 is not perfect, CPAWS supports it as an important tool to protect marine ecosystems.

There is also some hope that the government will soon pay some attention to biodiversity and wilderness issues. A series of international meetings, either hosted by Canada or that focus on biodiversity or parks, are scheduled in the near future. These meetings include the April conference for the Convention on Biological Diversity in The Hague; the April G-8 Environment Ministers meeting in Banff; the June G-8 Summit in Kananaskis; and the August Rio +10 Summit in Johannesburg.

Perhaps these events will provide some opportunities for the federal government to begin to deliver on Canada's numerous international commitments to conserve biodiversity and protect wilderness.

You will find more information on many of these issues in this newsletter and on our website at www.cpaws.org. 🐾

Change Is Coming to the Boreal (continued from page 7)

licensing or decisions to open areas for industrial development.

We need to think big. We need to establish big core protected areas in an interconnected system of parks, reserves, buffers and wildlife corridors that will serve as the backbone of protection in a healthy boreal landscape. We have to plan resource development so that it benefits communities and retains healthy wild areas – not just to maximize production and profits. And we have to make sure that the needs of nature come first in our planning for this global jewel and set an example for the world.

It's a big job, but we believe we must be involved and active in setting a new set of priorities for the boreal region. Such a magnificent natural asset deserves nothing less. 🐾



A storm prepares to break on the Bloodvein River in Manitoba.

Roger Turenne

Remembering...

CPAWS wishes to pay tribute to a few remarkable friends of wilderness who passed away over the last year:

- ✦ Maxwell Bruce, co-founder and first Chairman of CPAWS
- ✦ Jack Nicol, "the father of the modern parks service"
- ✦ Hilda Pangman, who generously endowed the CPAWS foundation and was devoted to nature conservation and the protection of the environment
- ✦ Angus Scott, former Executive Director and Foundation Trustee, will be fondly remembered as a builder. "Under his direction, membership quadrupled and the budget increased more than tenfold. His energy and dedication were greatly admired, helping to make a difference to many conservation efforts." – *Lives Lived*, The Globe and Mail, Cathy McCart, Harvey Locke Jan. 11/02

Our thoughts are with the families and friends of these special wilderness protectors. To learn more about these special people, please visit our website at www.cpaws.org and search "tributes" or contact Sue Dunton at 1-800-333-9453.

Why I Chose to Leave a Legacy...

Here is what one of our Legacy Leaders has to say about leaving a bequest to CPAWS:

"I became involved with CPAWS, formerly NPPAC, in the late 1960s.

Having spent a significant part of my life in the wilderness, I have experienced the joy of Nature's Sanctuary, and I wanted to give hope for those who haven't. Supporting the efforts of CPAWS would ensure that the opportunity remains forever.

When I developed psoriatic arthritis and could no longer participate in backcountry adventures, I decided to leave an environmental legacy. I made a bequest, i.e., a gift of the residue of my estate; the proceeds to be divided between the two most influential and most effective environmental organizations – CPAWS and The Sierra Club of Canada. This is a way of perpetuating my support for these organizations, and through their efforts, it is also a way of leaving a natural legacy for future generations."

Jeanne Good, British Columbia

Wilderness Investors Companies Making a Difference

Embracing sustainable business practices as well as common-sense environmental ethics are fundamental core values we look for in our corporate wilderness investors. These companies support CPAWS by contributing a portion of their sales, or making one-time and in-kind contributions.

Here is how The Hempest Handcrafted Soap Company plans to help CPAWS: "We have made a commitment to the restoration and preservation of our environment, and support our commitment by investing in the future of our parks and wildlands. Therefore, we are contributing 25 cents to the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society from every bar of soap we sell."

To learn more about becoming a corporate wilderness investor please go to www.cpaws.org/supportus/thankyou-wilderness-investors.html, or contact Leah Eustace at 1-800-333-9453 or e-mail leustace@cpaws.org 🐾



2 gifts are better than 1

Over 500 companies in Canada will match donations made by their employees to charitable organizations such as CPAWS. Some match 1:1, others 2:1, some even 3:1 or more.

Matching gifts are a very important source of funds for non-profits. They also represent an important and easy way for an employee to make a donation that will have a larger financial impact than would normally be the case.

To find out whether your company has a matching gift program, please check the list on our website at www.cpaws.org/supportus/matching-gifts.html. If your company has a matching gift program, and is not on our list, please let us know.

Once you've determined whether your company matches gifts, contact your personnel or community relations office for more information and matching gift forms. And don't forget: in addition to employees, some companies match gifts from spouses, retirees and non-employee directors! 🐾



Making a Difference Every Day

Thank you to the 700+ CPAWS members who make monthly donations through the Wilderness Protection Club (WPC). For less than a dollar per hectare saved, you can save wilderness every day of the year.

Why Become a WPC Member?

- Because it is simple – and giving a small amount each month won't be missed as much.
- Because it is so easy – no cheque writing, or mailing, or looking for stamps!
- It's flexible. You can increase, decrease, pause or stop your donations at any time.
- Saves paper, as you won't receive renewal mailings.
- Because it saves us money – our administrative costs are much lower, and more of your money goes to wilderness protection.
- Allows us to budget for upcoming campaigns because you provide us with regular income.
- And most importantly – it protects our wilderness!

You will receive all of our benefits of membership, including the *Wilderness Activist* and your local chapter newsletter. Plus, you'll receive exclusive WPC benefits like special reports from our Executive Director, Stephen Hazell, keeping you informed more than ever! You can receive all of this information by email too.

Joining the Wilderness Protection Club is easy. Please contact Laura Lafantaisie at 1-800-333-9453.

Read one WPC member's testimonial on page 14.

Key Species at Risk Act Amendments Endangered

After careful study, the House of Commons Environment Committee reached an unusual all-party consensus this winter on amendments needed to improve the proposed *Species at Risk Act*. CPAWS, like most other conservation organizations, still considered the act weak, but we saw the committee's amendments as helping the bill reach a minimum level of effectiveness. Now, however, the Liberal government appears determined to gut the key improvements made by the committee, including mandatory protection of critical habitat on federal lands and a scientific rather than political species listing system. As many as 10 Liberals could vote against the government's amendments, according to Parliamentary insiders. For more on where things stand and what you can do, see our website at www.cpaws.org/alerts/species-atrisk.html.



A Fowler's toad (listed as threatened) calling at night.

Mary Gantshore

This year's CPAWS Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 26 in Montreal. For more information please check our website at www.cpaws.org or contact our office at 1-800-333-WILD.



Return address:
 CPAWS National Office
 Suite 506, 880 Wellington St.
 Ottawa, Ont., K1R 6K7

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