

# CANADIAN WILDERNESS

A publication of  CPAWS · Spring 2005

# Nahanni

*Some things should last forever — page 10*

Canada's Boreal Forest — a Global Opportunity

Parks Go Aquatic

Small Parks, Big Problems for Wildlife

CPAWS: A History of Conservation

2004 Annual Report Special

 **CPAWS**  
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
SOCIÉTÉ POUR LA NATURE ET LES PARCS DU CANADA

 **SNAP**

**En français :**

Sommaire du Rapport Annuel 2004 de la SNAP  
Nouvelles de la SNAP-Montréal





*Protecting Canada's Wilderness:*  
Because some things should last forever.

Making Contact

photo Scott McMann



Nahanni's globally unique karst landforms are part of the proposed park expansion. For more information see page 10.  
photo Wendy Francis/CPAWS

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# The Idea of Wilderness

By Timothy Feher National Executive Director/CPAWS

photo Frank Parhizgar

**“Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?” The title of Paul Gauguin’s famous painting paid homage to the great questions of the human existence in nature. Gauguin had fled Europe, at the end of the 19th century, “to be at peace, and rid [himself] of the influence of civilization.” The weight of his questions proves that he was no tourist when he sought out the unspoiled landscape of Tahiti to inspire his famous canvas. His search for wilderness was a search for redemption, for meaning and for a different relationship to nature.**

Like T.S. Elliot in “The Wasteland”, Gauguin captured a troubling essence of the times. The human condition in Europe was trembling with the psychic fallout of the separation of the western philosophical mind from physical matter and its natural systems. Descartes’ 17th century idea that human intelligence, mind and spirit were fully distinct from matter was an interesting metaphysical inquiry, but it had set in motion a tidal wave of rationalism and hubris in human thinking. Reaching its apogee in the late 20th century, this radical new human narrative was dedicated to constructing a life outside of nature and its laws. Nature had been reduced from the all encompassing communal subject to a set of raw objects for human consumption.

Canada’s Group of Seven took up Gauguin’s post impressionist quest a few years after his death. But what was unique about the Group was that their paintings did not include humans

in their interpretations of the vast Canadian landscape. Nature was not some idyllic backdrop; it was the grand subject. For the Group, nature was all encompassing, vibrant, energetic and wild by necessity. Wilderness had a purpose and intelligence of its own. The paintings of the Group of Seven refuted the mental models that put humans at the centre of existence.

The idea and value of an un-peopled landscape is a kind of Canadian cultural phenomenon. **The idea of wilderness has driven much of what can be called the Canadian identity.** It drove the vision of J.B. Harkin, Canada’s first Commissioner of National Parks. Around the time that the Group of Seven were hosting their first art show in 1920, Harkin was assembling an ambitious network of protected wilderness parks across Canada. The parks were, and are, the envy of the world.

Culturally, both the Group of Seven and Harkin knew that the great

narrative of Canadian life existed in the natural landscape. It was a revelation that our first nation’s people had known for centuries: that the meaning of life is the experience of the land; a personal experience and journey through its wilderness. Even in Canada’s great cities, where the human-built form dominates the landscape, wilderness is still imprinted on us, and is often close by.

**“Wilderness” is the only term in the western world that can really describe the community of existence that is not human centered.** It is through our experience of wilderness that we know there is no real boundary between the end of one life form and the beginning of another. Wilderness is the otherness by which humans are completed in a psychic, physical and spiritual sense. Wilderness is our touchstone. It is the one constant through which we experience existence. To lose this reference point is to eventually lose the sense of ourselves as sentient beings in the great chain of life.

Wilderness is also a teacher. It is the experiential and scientific benchmark to measure our human centered failures as the self proclaimed natural resource managers of the planet. And still, the resource management approach to conservation continues to dominate our strategies. The conservation movement has been drawn into the post Descartes mental model of proving the value of wilderness and its natural services to human existence. While the conservation movement cannot abandon this economic and commodity driven dialogue—in fact we must continue to influence the quality of that dialogue—we know that it is primarily a defensive tactic.

Even new words and ideas like “sustainable development” (though a step in the right direction) are still, primarily, resource and commodity approaches to conservation.

The idea of wilderness proposes a very different conservation strategy

and opportunity for humankind. Conversant with ecosystem science, the idea of wilderness is realized at the large landscape level, maintaining and connecting vital habitats and natural functions, at a scale large enough to sustain the long-term health of the planet and its legion of species. The idea of wilderness necessitates a much greater vision for conservation; a greater vision for Canada. Such a vision can only come through a brave and determined articulation of what kind of country we want to live in. Such a vision needs to prescribe the large-scale wilderness conservation objectives we want to achieve as opposed to the smaller scale conservation consolations, left over from development decisions. Visionaries like J.B. Harkin knew this.

The scale and speed of development pressures in the post-modern world have created an unprecedented urgency for wilderness protection. For example, crucial decisions will be made in the next five years which will fundamentally alter Canada’s boreal forest, one of the last three, intact forest ecosystems on the planet. The boreal is an extraordinary opportunity to rethink the scale of conservation in Canada; to substantially enhance our objectives beyond resource management or isolated habitat creation.

Which countries, other than Canada, can boast of a relatively pristine forest and vast matrix of watersheds that span across the entire nation, coast to coast; an ecozone so large that it has planetary significance? **Canada’s boreal forest represents 25% of the world’s remaining intact forests.** When we approach a conservation opportunity of this scale we have to throw out the old paradigm of allowing “resource” values to drive the strategy.

The idea of wilderness inspires a more focused and large-scale conservation strategy. It says that some natural places should last forever. Because of the scale, connectivity, the

integrity of landforms and ecological function, and wildlife migration, a wilderness strategy demands that we must relate to some places with a very different human ethic.

A wilderness strategy can fit very well, and in fact inform, other conservation strategies. For example Harvey Locke, a long-time CPAWS activist and visionary, has proposed that we really need different conservation strategies, and different guiding objectives, for the different states of nature in Canada. These different strategies would all employ wilderness values as their measure but they would have different performance expectations. **Locke proposes a conservation vision that would be designed for the Three Canadas:** 1) A “species at risk” Canada (primarily the southern developed portion of the country); 2) A “species in recovery” Canada (middle Canada where ranching and resource extraction takes place); and 3) A “species in abundance” Canada (further north, above the cut line).

All three models could inform appropriate land use policy and could manage the ecological footprint with clearer objectives in mind. More importantly each model, guided by the ideals of wilderness, could be a laboratory for the evolution of a new ethical framework and a new human relationship to nature.

Ninety-four percent of Canada’s forests are on publicly owned land. The opportunity for an integrated Federal/Provincial/First Nations wilderness strategy is a real one. The urgency for leadership from all Canadians has never been greater. For more than 40 years the idea of wilderness has inspired the leadership of CPAWS and its supporters to engage Canadians, government and industry towards the protection of that which gives us identity and life. And so our answer to Gauguin’s final question: “Where are we going?” Canada, it is time for a vision. ■



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**A TRIBUTE TO DR. BENSON**

**Loud Canada geese imprinted on gray sky  
In swaying V's of space-consuming flight!  
How many hours by day, by darksome night...**

**Vociferous legions, not a moment staying...  
From south to north, no marshaled member straying.**

—From *The Canada Geese Go Over*  
by Mary Josephine Benson

We were saddened to lose our longtime friend and supporter, Dr. John Bernard Benson, this year. A family doctor in Port Hope, Ontario for over 50 years, Dr. Benson had recently shared with us a book of his mother's poetry. Her writing is a testament to her love of nature, deftly evoking the Canadian landscape and seasons.



photo Mike Beedell

**CPAWS Chapter News Across Canada**

**Yukon Art on Nationwide Tour**

In 2003, 8 nationally prominent artists voyaged down 3 Yukon rivers, creating 17 pieces of art for a multi-city tour through Canada. *Three Rivers: Wild Waters, Sacred Places* is coming to the Maltwood Gallery at the University of Victoria in October 2005.

CPAWS-Yukon won a prestigious grant from the Banff Centre for the Arts this October. The Centre selected *Three Rivers* as a recipient in their Mountain Grants program. The grants support projects that communicate the importance of mountain watersheds to the public. For more info on the exhibit, visit <http://www.cpawsyukon.org/events/index.html#threerivers-tour>

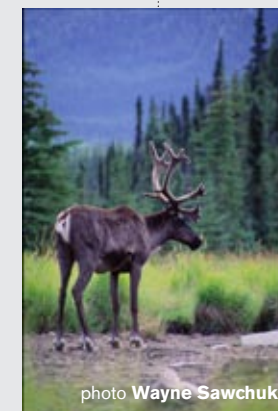


photo Wayne Sawchuk

**Federal Government Secures \$9 Million to Protect the NWT's Mackenzie Valley**

Government, Aboriginal organizations, and northern environmental groups are working together to implement the NWT Protected Areas Strategy Mackenzie Valley 5-year Action Plan. The federal government committed \$9 million this December, and CPAWS, Ducks Unlimited and World Wildlife Fund will be raising \$6 million over 5 years to support the Action Plan. The Action Plan will identify and protect a network of important cultural and ecological areas in the Mackenzie Valley concurrently or in advance of major development, such as the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline.

**CPAWS-British Columbia seeks international marine peace park for "The Big Eddy"**

We are currently embarked on an exciting new initiative to protect and conserve the shared waters of the Juan de Fuca Eddy, which lie off the west coast of southern Vancouver Island and northern Washington State. We envision two components to this conservation initiative. The first is an international marine "peace park" that would link the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary with a new national marine conservation area on the Canadian side, adjacent to Pacific Rim National Park. Inside and outside the "peace park" we see a collaborative ecosystem-based

management regime that will ensure the long term viability of one of the most healthy and diverse marine ecosystems on the west coast of North America. A recent scientific symposium organized by CPAWS-BC in cooperation with our international steering

committee clearly identified this marine region as one of immense productivity and diversity, driven by the Juan de Fuca Eddy, which we are calling the "Big Eddy".

**CPAWS-Edmonton campaigns for "last true wilderness" in Alberta**

CPAWS-Edmonton has begun a campaign to protect the Athabasca Heartland. A key area of the boreal forest, the Heartland

includes Wood Buffalo National Park. The 190,000 km<sup>2</sup> Heartland, in the northeast corner of the province, is largely untouched by development. However, heavy developmental pressure from industry has already impacted the habitat and wildlife at its edges. The chapter will work with government, industry, and communities to establish the Athabasca Heartland as a world-class conservation area characterized by a suite of interconnected reserves and, in the remaining landscape, industrial practices that maintain forest integrity and connectivity.

**CPAWS-Calgary/Banff Releases Video**

CPAWS-Calgary/Banff has spent much of the past year looking at the plans for the further twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway in Banff National Park. We are cautiously optimistic about that project, hoping that the modification of the highway will bring more benefits than harm to the Bow Valley. This spring the chapter will be releasing a video setting out some of the key aspects of making highways more "wildlife friendly" so that those lessons can be incorporated into planning for other highways.

Watch [www.cpawscalgary.org](http://www.cpawscalgary.org) for new developments on this project.

**CPAWS-Saskatchewan enters the province's Centennial Canoe Quest to highlight conservation opportunities in Northern Saskatchewan**

An important campaign area for CPAWS

SK is the Churchill River—a river channel of 2100 km of stream-connected lakes that crosses northern Saskatchewan. To highlight conservation opportunities along the river, CPAWS-SK is organizing a team of canoeists to participate in a voyageur canoe race organized by northern communities who call the Churchill home. Twenty-five teams of six paddlers will be participating in the 1000 plus kilometer race between June 18th and July 4th, 2005. Team members include James Raffan, author of *Rendezvous With the Wild*, Laurel Archer, author of *Northern Canoe Trips*, paddlers from Grandmother's Bay, a community on the banks of the Churchill River and CPAWS conservationists and supporters. The team is paddling to celebrate the Churchill and to promote awareness of boreal conservation in the province.

**CPAWS-Manitoba launches Winnipeg Wild**

*Winnipeg Wild* is a collaborative project between CPAWS-Manitoba and Wildcanada.net to illustrate the important links between the residents of Winnipeg and the surrounding wildlands and wildlife. *Winnipeg Wild* encourages Winnipeggers to enjoy low-impact outdoor recreation and to participate in environmental decision making. For more information, visit [www.winnipegwild.net](http://www.winnipegwild.net)

**Wildlands League publishes report on boreal clearcutting**

*A Cut Above: A look at alternatives to clearcutting in Canada's boreal forest* looks at the ecological and economic implications for broadening approaches to forestry in boreal forests. Currently, 90% of the area cut each year in our boreal forests is clearcut. The report finds that this "one size fits all" approach is neither a good ecological or economic approach and suggests a number of alternative approaches. Read the report at <http://www.wildlandsleague.org/alternatives.pdf>

**Conservationists, First Nations discuss Boreal Conservation**

CPAWS and other conservation groups met with 17 First Nations in February to collaborate on boreal forest conservation. CPAWS-Wildlands League helped host the event, which enlisted the cooperation



and knowledge of first nations people in protecting the boreal forest.

#### **CPAWS-Ottawa Valley publishes Thousand Islands Ecosystem Community Atlas**

CPAWS-Ottawa Valley has published a community atlas for the St. Lawrence Islands National Park ecosystem. This atlas of the greater park ecosystem, and others planned for the series, will help communities near national parks make the best land use decisions based on practical science. The atlas is printed on Forest Stewardship Council certified paper. For more information, or to download the atlas, visit <http://www.cpaws.org/community-atlas/StLawrence.html>

#### **Oka Park Pipeline on Hold for Now, thanks to CPAWS-Montreal**

CPAWS-Montreal and UQCN won a temporary injunction against an oil pipeline being constructed in Oka Park. The precedent-setting decision recognized the role of advocacy groups in ensuring that companies and the government comply with the Parks Act. Trans-Northern Pipeline Inc. had planned to lay pipe across part of Oka Park, despite the Quebec Park Act's specific prohibition of pipe laying in parks.

#### **Introducing CPAWS-New Brunswick!**

The New Brunswick chapter of CPAWS launched in November, and ushered in a new era of conservation in the province. CPAWS-NB will continue and expand upon its work as the NB Protected Natural Areas Coalition. Projects include the Park Watch Committee, dedicated to monitoring and advocacy for New Brunswick's parks, and ongoing conservation work in the Restigouche River watershed. These ecosystems in the northwestern corner of New Brunswick are not represented in the Protected Areas System, yet contain some of the largest unprotected roadless areas and most spectacular wild rivers in the province.

#### **CPAWS-Nova Scotia working to create a National Marine Conservation Area**

Given the prime minister's announcement in 2002 that 5 new National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCAs) will be created in the next five years, CPAWS Nova Scotia is specifically working to encourage the creation of a NMCA in Atlantic Canada. CPAWS-NS has identified St. Margaret's

Bay and Mahone Bay as a potential NMCA. The bays and adjacent ocean include most of the characteristics of Nova Scotia's Atlantic Coast region. The 'twin bays' include all three of the main types of bedrock found in this region (granite, slate, and greywacke) and consequently include an array of coastal geographic and oceanographic features associated with each. The rich physical diversity of the bays gives rise to a broad array of habitats for marine organisms.

#### **New projects underway for CPAWS-Newfoundland and Labrador**

CPAWS-NL launched two new exciting projects in January 2005. Both stem from the Strategic Conservation Plan compiled in 2003. The Protected Area Steward Program

is a major campaign designed to increase awareness and appreciation of NL protected areas. Individuals already acting as protected area stewards will be recognized through stewardship agreements and appreciation materials. Some protected areas are remote or relatively unknown. New stewards will be acquired for these areas. This program includes terrestrial and marine protected areas. Major funding is provided by the Shell Environment Fund, Parks and Natural Areas Division (Government of Newfoundland and Labrador) and the Government of Canada's EcoAction Program.

The Economic Benefits Study will provide a first glimpse of the tangible but often ignored economic benefits of protected areas in NL. Protected areas are often seen as impediments to economic growth. However, they often serve as anchors for the local ecotourism economy. This case study will focus on Butter Pot Provincial Park, a 2800 protected area outside St. John's. Major funding is provided by Canadian Boreal Institute with the cooperation from Park and Natural Areas Division, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

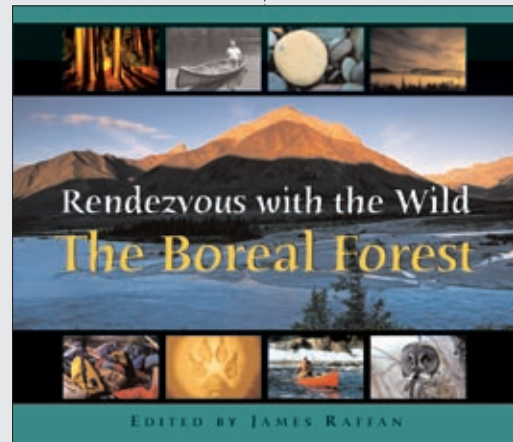
#### **Woodland Caribou Need Urgent Protection, CPAWS Reports**

To the great interest of national media, CPAWS released a report showing that woodland caribou and their boreal habitat need immediate protection if the population is to remain healthy. Canada's boreal forest, home to woodland caribou, is faced with high development pressure. Due to habitat loss, the caribou have disappeared from half of their historic range. The report found industrial roads to be the biggest threat to the caribou. As a result of this report, CPAWS will focus on the woodland caribou as an indicator species for our work on the protection of large, interconnected landscapes in the boreal forest. To view the report, please visit [www.cpaws.org/boreal](http://www.cpaws.org/boreal)

#### **Boreal Rendezvous Book Published**

*Rendezvous with the Wild – the Boreal Forest* is an impassioned, eclectic written and visual celebration of the boreal forest and the rivers that run through it. Edited by well-known Canadian author and avid canoeist

James Raffan, this book captures the spirit of the high-profile Boreal Rendezvous river journeys in 2003. The book includes contributions by CPAWS Boreal patrons and prominent Canadians, including His Excellency John Ralston Saul, David Suzuki, Cathy Jones, Justin Trudeau, Wade Davis, Tomson Highway, Sarah Harmer, David Schindler and many more. These accomplished Canadians shared their experiences on the river trips in a unique and compelling collection with songs, stories, journal entries, spectacular images, poems and much more. Woven through the book is a strong conservation message for the importance of protecting the boreal forest. Accordingly, *Rendezvous with the Wild* is the first hardcover book to be printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) paper in North America, recognizing the importance of using paper from well-managed forests in the boreal.



#### **True North Wild and Free – a celebration of our boreal forests**

In November, CPAWS organized a national tour to celebrate Canada's boreal forest and increase the engagement of supporters in our boreal conservation efforts. The tour visited ten Canadian cities from Montreal to Whitehorse and was hosted by James Raffan, CPAWS Boreal Patron, *Rendezvous with the Wild* book editor and one of Canada's best known wilderness authors. Special guests participated at each event that included CPAWS Boreal Patrons and high profile Canadian celebrities such as Justin Trudeau, Thomas King, Connie Kaldor, Ian Tamblyn and more. In addition, CPAWS was joined by terrific new partners, The Royal Canadian Geographic Society and Queens University Alumni Association, that enabled us to reach out to a broader range of Canadians. The media coverage CPAWS generated throughout the three-week tour reached millions of Canadians, and reinforced our belief that CPAWS can undertake complex outreach activities and be highly successful. *True North Wild and Free* was an energizing and awareness-building event that attracted many new supporters, volunteers, partners, sponsors and potential new members. In 2005, we will build off these successes and continue our efforts to instill a sense of pride and responsibility among Canadians to protect our boreal forest.



photo M Grausuou

## Coming Events '05

#### **CPAWS-Nova Scotia**

April 22 and 23

Halifax, Nova Scotia

With permission from the Dr. Seuss Foundation and the talent of Halifax's Neptune Theatre School, we are happy to present a dramatic performance of the Dr. Seuss classic "The Lorax". Visit [www.cpawsns.org](http://www.cpawsns.org) for more information.

#### **Celebrate the Wild Nahanni**

May 11

Ottawa, Ontario

Join CPAWS and special host Becky Mason, Justin Trudeau and Herb Norwegian, Grand Chief of Dehcho First Nations for a spectacular evening on the Nahanni. Learn how you can help protect Canada's most renowned northern boreal wilderness. [www.cpaws.org/Nahanni](http://www.cpaws.org/Nahanni)

#### **CPAWS-Calgary**

May 15

Fish Creek Provincial Park, Alberta

3rd Annual Running Wild! Run or Walk for Wilderness  
[www.cpawscalgary.org/running-wild](http://www.cpawscalgary.org/running-wild)

#### **CPAWS-Yukon**

Oct 17 to December

Victoria, British Columbia

*Three Rivers: Wild Waters, Sacred Places* art exhibition at the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery  
[www.maltwood.uvic.ca](http://www.maltwood.uvic.ca)

**Although CPAWS has had many successes in 2004, we still need your help! Here are just some of the ongoing challenges we face.**

#### **Ottawa Valley**

A wolf conservation proposal announced by Ontario Minister of Natural Resources David Ramsay fails to provide sufficient protection for wolves. The Eastern wolf, a designated Species at Risk, is particularly vulnerable. Under the proposal, wolves can still be hunted and trapped in provincial parks.

For more information:

<http://www.cpaws-ov.org/algonquinwolves>

#### **NWT**

With development pressures building in the Mackenzie Valley, CPAWS-NWT is calling on the federal government to complete protection now for Sahoyué (Grizzly Bear Mountain) and Ehdacho (Scented Grass Hills) – two vast boreal forest peninsulas on Great Bear Lake. These lands are of extreme cultural importance to the First Nations community of Déline, and their protection is a long-time federal commitment as well as being part of the NWT Protected Areas Strategy.

For more information: <http://www.cpaws.org/grassroots-chapters/nwt.html>

#### **Edmonton**

Alberta's highly vulnerable Little Smoky caribou herd is threatened by the proposed construction of a gas pipeline through its range. The planned construction by Suncor and ConocoPhillips would further fragment the habitat of a herd recognized by the Alberta government as being "at immediate risk of extirpation."

For more information: <http://www.cpaws-edmonton.org/CPAWS-NR-WoodCaribou.htm>



# Annual Report 2004

CPAWS / Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society  
Incorporated without share capital under the laws of Canada

## Statement of Financial Position (dollars)

### ASSETS

#### Current

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 450,192	\$ 279,131
Restricted cash and short-term investment	289,512	422,133
Accounts receivable	30,649	33,337
Prepaid expenses	4,294	7,946

#### Total current assets

Capital assets, net*	774,647	742,547
	13,573	19,390
	<b>\$ 788,220</b>	<b>\$ 761,937</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### Current

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities*	\$ 436,021	\$ 263,793
Deferred contributions*	289,512	422,133
Transfers payable to regional chapters*	54,568	47,070
Due to Yukon chapter*	50,000	—

#### Total current liabilities

Commitments*	830,101	732,996
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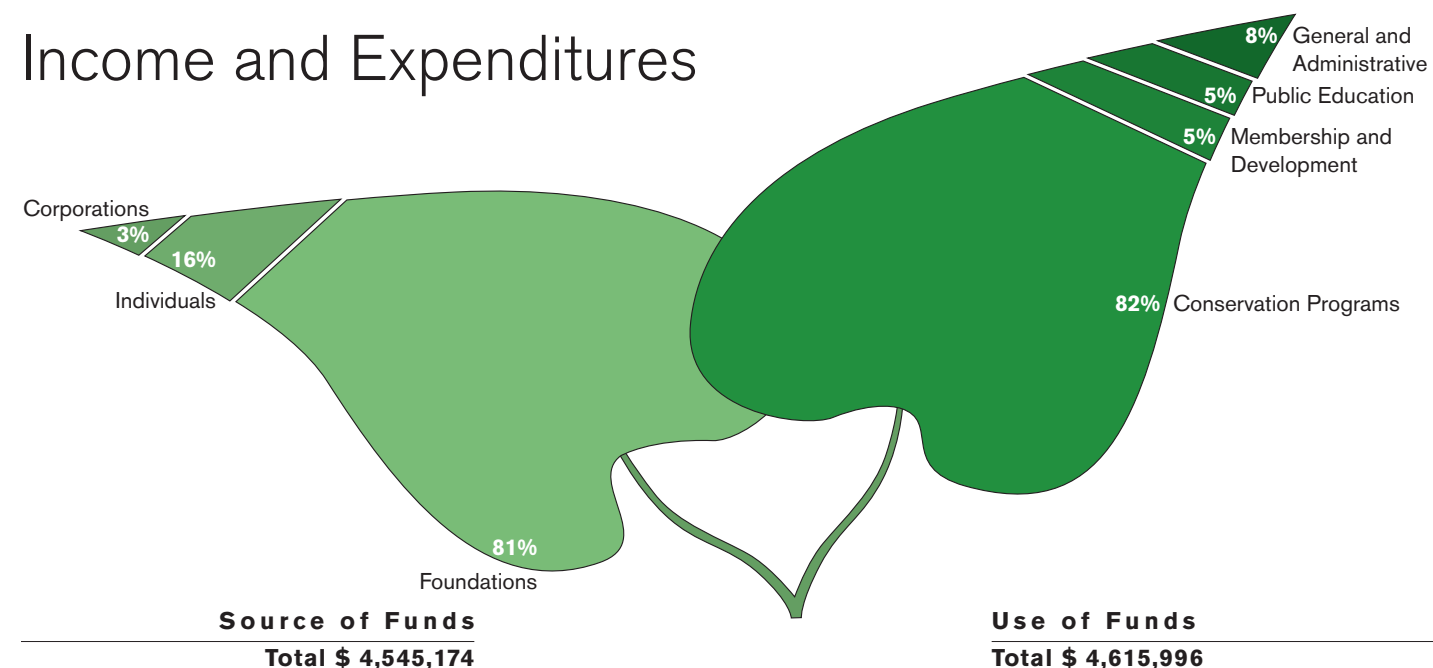
#### Net assets

Unrestricted	(55,454)	9,551
Investment in capital assets	13,573	19,390
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>(41,881)</b>	<b>28,941</b>
	<b>\$ 788,220</b>	<b>\$ 761,937</b>

\*For full financial details and notes, please contact the National Office.

	2004	2003
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 450,192	\$ 279,131
Restricted cash and short-term investment	289,512	422,133
Accounts receivable	30,649	33,337
Prepaid expenses	4,294	7,946
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>774,647</b>	<b>742,547</b>
Capital assets, net*	13,573	19,390
	<b>\$ 788,220</b>	<b>\$ 761,937</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities*	\$ 436,021	\$ 263,793
Deferred contributions*	289,512	422,133
Transfers payable to regional chapters*	54,568	47,070
Due to Yukon chapter*	50,000	—
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>830,101</b>	<b>732,996</b>
Commitments*		
<b>Net assets</b>		
Unrestricted	(55,454)	9,551
Investment in capital assets	13,573	19,390
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>(41,881)</b>	<b>28,941</b>
	<b>\$ 788,220</b>	<b>\$ 761,937</b>

## Income and Expenditures



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# Nahanni

*Some things should last forever*

photo Wendy Francis/CPAWS

Once in a while a country has a chance to do something visionary at a global scale. Such is CPAWS' view of the conservation opportunity that exists right now in the mountainous Nahanni region of the Northwest Territories, where Nahanni National Park Reserve and World Heritage Site protects a corridor along the famous South Nahanni River.

Established back in the early 1970s by Pierre Trudeau's government, the Nahanni needs to be expanded to reflect current understanding of the needs of such species as grizzly bears and woodland caribou, and to protect the waters, wildlife and wilderness values of this very special place. CPAWS' vision is to expand the national park to protect the entire 35,000 sq km watershed of the South Nahanni River. Protecting the entire watershed is a vision shared by local First Nations in the Dehcho and Sahtu regions—in whose traditional territory the Nahanni lies. We are working hard to ensure that this vision is achieved.

While progress is being made, a mining company—Canadian Zinc—continues to pressure the federal government to allow them to develop and operate the proposed Prairie Creek Mine, upstream from the national park. A proposal fraught with risk and uncertainty, this proposed mine would put at risk the water and ecosystems of this magnificent World Heritage Site, along with the expansion proposal.

To ensure that Canada embraces the opportunity to protect the magnificent northern boreal wilderness of the Nahanni, CPAWS is launching a campaign to mobilize **100,000 Canadians for the Nahanni**, in support of protecting the entire South Nahanni Watershed... forever.

To join this campaign, visit our new online Boreal Action Centre at [www.cpaws.org/borealaction](http://www.cpaws.org/borealaction). *We will provide you with tools and ideas for how you can make a difference.* ■

The Boreal forest is a foundation of our national identity. It supports our economy and inspires our culture. It is home to people whose daily lives are intrinsically linked to the well being of the forest. Hundreds of Aboriginal communities across Canada still practice their traditional ways of life and depend upon the boreal for food, medicines and an economic livelihood. It filters our water, keeps our air clean, helps regulate climate and sustains a vast variety of living organisms, including human beings. Today, Canada's northern boreal forest is on the precipice of major change. Change that could threaten the daily benefits it provides us. Our southern boreal forest has already seen too much rapid, poorly planned development. As industries and governments eye the vast riches and resources of the forest, plans are underway to move north.

The Boreal Forest Conservation Framework, of which CPAWS is a key signatory, sets out a bold vision and action plan for conserving Canada's boreal forest. Coordinated by the Canadian Boreal Initiative, the framework aims to change the current way the boreal forest is being developed by building an agreement between resource companies, First Nations, conservation groups and governments to legally protect *at least half* of the entire boreal forest region. It allows for the remaining half to be accessible to various forms of development in a fully

sustainable fashion. This innovative agreement represents a dramatic new approach that puts the conservation of ecosystems and species like woodland caribou *before* development for the first time. CPAWS is working on the ground in developing land-use plans to ensure important areas are protected *before* lands are allocated for industrial use.

As Canadians, we are in a unique position to set a positive example for the world to follow. We are stewards of one of the world's last intact forest ecosystems (one quarter of the world's remaining forest) and have a

responsibility to be world leaders in conservation. In fact, not only do we have the opportunity to lead the way in how we conserve the forest, but also in the way we do it. By working with local communities and Aboriginal Peoples on boreal conservation, CPAWS will work to ensure their values are respected and develop ways to include sustainable economic development that will benefit all Canadians. ■

*For more information on the Boreal Forest Conservation Framework please visit [www.cpaws.org/boreal](http://www.cpaws.org/boreal)*

## *The Boreal Forest*

photo Courtney Milne.com



# Canada's Boreal Region

## CPAWS Action in the Boreal

1. The Three Rivers project in Yukon Territory aims to increase awareness of the values of the Wind, Snake and Bonnet Plume Rivers in the Peel Watershed among CPAWS supporters and the arts community. A national art-based tour is being developed to increase support for the establishment of a protected area and broader conservation vision in this key area in the boreal forest.

2. In the NWT, CPAWS is working to ensure that a network of protected wild areas is established before the development of the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline.

3. Nahanni National Park Reserve is Canada's most renowned northern boreal wilderness. This World Heritage Site represents an excellent opportunity for a major conservation success. Our goal is to protect the entire 35,000 sq km South Nahanni Watershed, including the Nahanni karstlands, by expanding the existing national park. To achieve this, we must stop the proposed Prairie Creek Mine that threatens the wildlife and wilderness values of the park. Join our Boreal Action Centre and be a part of CPAWS' 100,000 Canadians for the Nahanni campaign.

4. CPAWS in B.C. is working with the Kaska Dena to establish protected areas and world class resource management in their traditional territory in northern B.C. and Yukon.

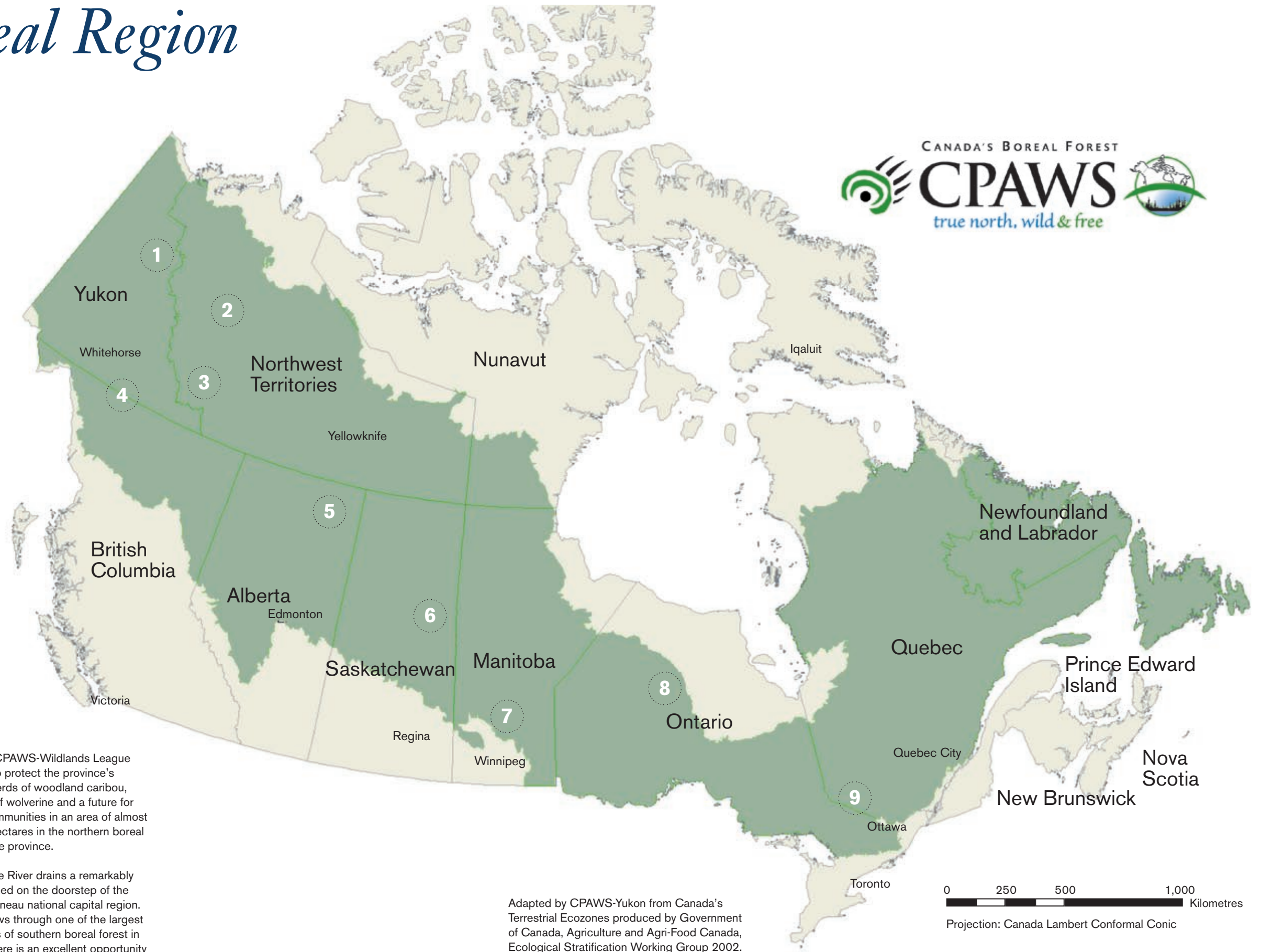
5. In Alberta, CPAWS is working to complete a network of protected areas and sustainable management in the northern Athabasca area, Alberta's largest and wildest boreal forest region.

6. 2005 marks Saskatchewan's centennial anniversary and to celebrate, CPAWS is working to secure protection of Black Bear Island Lake on the Churchill River and build momentum for protection along the entire course of this key wilderness river.

7. In Manitoba, CPAWS is working hard to help with the creation of a new National Park in the Manitoba Lowlands area between Lakes Winnipeg and Winnipegosis. At some 3,300 sq. km, this new national park will encompass a wide diversity of landscapes and habitats in a largely pristine condition.

8. In Ontario, CPAWS-Wildlands League is working to protect the province's remaining herds of woodland caribou, population of wolverine and a future for northern communities in an area of almost 40 million hectares in the northern boreal portion of the province.

9. The Dumoine River drains a remarkably wild watershed on the doorstep of the Ottawa-Gatineau national capital region. The river flows through one of the largest intact blocks of southern boreal forest in Quebec. There is an excellent opportunity for the protection of the Dumoine River watershed and other key sites on Quebec's North Shore through the Quebec Protected Areas Strategy.





## The CPAWS Marine Protected Areas campaign

Appeals for forest conservation often call up images of landscapes disturbed by clear-cuts and the devastation left by mining. It's a visceral call to action that has spurred many to action. But what do you visualize when you think about marine conservation? Canada's oceans harbor ecosystems as varied and complex as any found on land, and they are as much, if not more threatened by human activities. Because the damage isn't always visible to the unaided eye, it goes largely unnoticed by most. CPAWS is committed to conserving the marine environment with a network of protected areas.

### What are Marine Protected Areas, or MPAs?

MPAs are long-term, legally protected areas capable of protecting a wide range of habitat and species. A core "no-take" area would prohibit all extractive activities, while a buffer zone would allow some low impact activities while reducing the impact on fragile ecosystems. CPAWS' goal is to establish a network of MPAs on all coasts, representing the variety of marine habitats. It's a comprehensive approach to conservation that puts nature first, while providing long-term benefits to coastal communities.

### Why are MPAs important?

Marine ecosystems face many of the same pressures as forests—pollution, invasive species, and destructive fishing practices. Coastal cities and ships deluge marine habitat with sewage, garbage, and other wastes. Ship ballasts may also harbor exotic species that disrupt the native ecosystem. However, according to marine scientists, the greatest threat to marine ecosystems is overfishing. For example, the over-harvesting of fish has indisputably changed Canada's marine landscapes over the last 100 years, driving some species to extinction, rapidly depleting others, and causing many predator populations to dwindle.

Bottom trawling or dragging, a form of fishing in which a net is scraped along the sea bottom, is considered the aquatic equivalent of clear-cutting. Thousands of acres of sea bottom are destroyed each year, and non-target species are frequently killed and their habitats destroyed in the process. *Lobelia pertusa*, a reef-forming coral, was recently found for the first time in Canada off the coast of Nova Scotia. However, more than 90% of the reef has been extensively damaged by fishing gear. In British Columbia waters, the only known living glass sponge reefs

in the world were discovered in 1988. Believed to have gone extinct during the age of the dinosaurs, these fragile organisms date back 9,000 years and have also been extensively damaged by bottom trawling. World experts on sponge reefs have said that marine protected areas status is necessary to adequately protect these ecologically and historically significant marine resources.

### Why do we need multiple MPAs?

Both terrestrial and marine species benefit from diverse, undeveloped, interconnected habitats. With no roads to cut across a marine ecosystem, maintaining a link between marine habitats can be easier. The challenge, however, lies in protecting unique areas and networks representative of various marine ecosystems. Marine species may spend different life stages in different habitats, some traveling hundreds of miles during their lifetime. The government of Canada has signed international commitments to establish a network of MPAs by 2012, and CPAWS chapters on the east, west and north coasts will continue working to make sure this happens in order to protect the long-term ecological integrity of Canada's seascapes. ■



photo Michael Runtz

## Algonquin to Adirondack

Ontario's Algonquin Park and New York's Adirondack Park are two of the largest protected areas in Eastern North America. Separated by an international border and hundreds of kilometers, the parks might not seem to have much in common. Many large mammals can range hundreds of kilometers in their lifetimes. Wolves, moose, lynx, and other species need more land than either park alone can provide.

Alice the moose was radio-collared in New York's Adirondack Park in 1998. Over the next few years, researchers followed her path across the St. Lawrence River and southeastern Ontario, all the way to Algonquin Park. Her trip is a great example of the connectivity between these two protected areas that still exists today, and what we stand to lose if we destroy those connections.

The Algonquin to Adirondack Conservation Initiative (A2A) shares its scientific basis with Yellowstone to

Yukon (Y2Y), a groundbreaking CPAWS conservation project in the Rockies. A2A helps landowners see themselves and their lands as wildlife neighbors. A2A has enjoyed the support of many landowners in the region, from those who actively support conservation efforts, to those who simply feel that coexisting with nature is the right thing to do.

Although Alice's journey might seem unusual, large mammals regularly move in and out of parks as part of their natural movements. This is why hunting and trapping outside Algonquin Park put that park's Eastern wolf population in jeopardy. Ontario's government has since instituted a buffer zone to protect wolves around that park. Buffers and connections between protected areas are needed to truly give wolves and other large mammals the room they need to thrive. With persistence, A2A will preserve the link between the two parks, and the wildlife that depends on it for survival. ■

### The Eastern wolf (*Canis lycaon*)

- Despite appearances, the Eastern Wolf is neither a wolf/coyote hybrid nor a subspecies of the grey wolf (*Canis lupus*). Rather, it is closely related to the endangered red wolf of the southeastern U.S.
- The Eastern Wolf was added to Canada's Species At Risk list in May 2001 with the designation of Special Concern (a species that is particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events). This science-based designation is given by the Committee On the Status of Endangered Wildlife In Canada (COSEWIC).
- The Eastern Wolf's range extends across central Ontario and southern Quebec.
- Last national population estimate (published by COSEWIC) is 2000 Eastern wolves. Figures provided to CPAWS by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in November 2004 indicate that the entire Ontario population of Eastern Wolf could be as low as 937 animals.
- In the Eastern Wolf's range, Algonquin Park is the largest protected area.

# Underwater Parks

photo Mike Beedell



# Small Parks, Big Problems for Wildlife

*By Sue Novotny* A map of Canada's national and provincial parks looks promising enough. One might think that each dot and block of green on the landscape represents an unmitigated success, a lease on life for the wildlife it contains. In that light, CPAWS' work towards much larger conservation areas seems to be merely icing on the conservation cake. Unfortunately, many of our parks fall far short of properly protecting wildlife. A park that fails to protect enough ecosystems, enough space, and enough biodiversity to support large mammal populations is not a safeguard against extinction. Large parks and wildlife corridors are absolutely necessary to keep large mammal populations alive.

What makes a park too small? It's not just acreage, though a park that accommodates the home ranges of multiple large species is certainly preferable. The small park lacks wildlife corridors to other parks, effectively isolating its inhabitants. It also fails to include a wide range of ecosystems, or the food and habitat required to support a healthy, viable population of each species. With a large, healthy population comes an often overlooked, but supremely important hallmark of biodiversity: genetic diversity.

Back to Biology 101: each organism has a unique mix of gene forms, or alleles. Some alleles may confer advantages such as disease resistance, stronger antlers, protection against

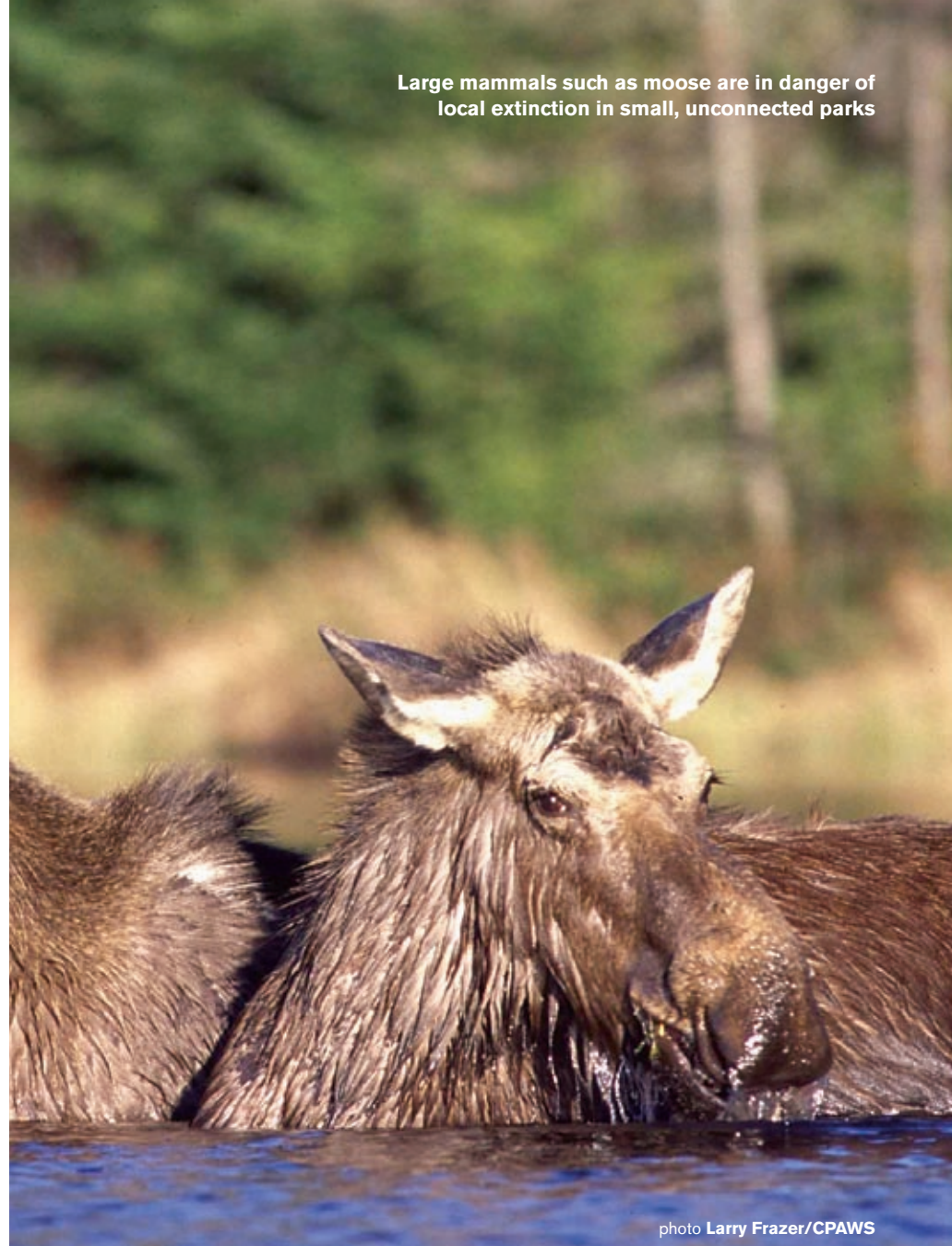


photo Larry Frazer/CPAWS

Large mammals such as moose are in danger of local extinction in small, unconnected parks

dental wear, and so on. Individuals with more advantageous alleles live longer, are more successful breeders, and are more attractive to potential mates. They tend to produce more offspring, so advantageous alleles accumulate. Consider a small population of moose in a small, isolated park. This population has a low diversity of alleles, and with few mates available, the moose are quickly reduced to inbreeding. Within a few generations, we see an accumulation of deleterious mutations, reduced genetic resistance to disease and infection, and lower birth rates. Our small population begins a

downward spiral to extinction—all despite inhabiting a protected area!

Without corridors to other parks and enough space to support viable wildlife populations, small parks are simply a stopgap measure. The small green blocks on our map of Canada are successes, but they are also islands, and their inhabitants castaways. CPAWS' work with the Boreal Framework, Algonquin to Adirondack, and Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative is designed to maintain the bridges between these wilderness islands, and make small parks true reserves for wildlife. ■

## CPAWS pre-history: *The early days*

BY HARVEY LOCKE



photo Harvey Locke

**B**efore there ever was a CPAWS there had been two great periods of conservation action in Canada. The first period began with the establishment of Banff (1885), Yoho, Glacier and Waterton Lakes, Jasper and Point Pelee national parks, and ended with World War One. During this time wildlife sanctuaries like Last Mountain Lake in Saskatchewan were also created. Wildlife protection laws were passed across the country. Provincial parks like Mont Tremblant, Rondeau, and Algonquin were also established. This corresponded to a move across much of the English-speaking world to protect wild nature. The United States, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand all established nature reserves in that period.

Canada and the US signed the Migratory Birds Convention. The National Parks Association, linked to the Alpine Club of Canada, was established. It shared ideas with the US-based Sierra Club, led by John Muir. Local citizens successfully campaigned for the establishment of Mount Revelstoke National Park and Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park in British Columbia. The Minister of the Interior called on J.B. Harkin to establish the world's first national park

service, which we now know as Parks Canada. The great conflagration of World War One brought this period to a close.

After the war, conservation efforts continued with leadership from the newly established Canadian Wildlife Service, which was part of the national parks agency led by Harkin. Great wilderness areas like the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary and Wood Buffalo National Park were established. Ideas were shared over the border where the US Wilderness Society was created. But the Great Depression in 1929 brought on new pressures. Buffalo and Antelope National Parks were abolished. The National Parks Association fought in vain to prevent the reduction in size of Banff National Park. J.B. Harkin was still able to get the National Parks Act passed, which required parks to be maintained unimpaired for future generations. But the National Parks Association died out as World War Two preoccupied the country.

The 1950s were a period of great belief in technological progress. The automobile became ubiquitous. Conservation was not at the top of peoples' minds in Canada. Opening more areas to cars and tourism

development even dominated the thinking in parks agencies. The concept of a "dual mandate" for the use and enjoyment of parks conveniently ignored the requirement that they be made use of in a manner that leaves them unimpaired for future generations. Chemical agriculture, new saw and pulp mills, and mines spread over the Canadian wilderness. Great parks like Hamber Provincial Park in BC were eliminated to allow for logging and hydro-development. The oil and gas industry spread across the west. Then, around 1960, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* and the work of others woke the world up to the costs of such progress. But the forces of development were persistent even inside parks. The Minister responsible for national parks despaired openly in the House of Commons that no one was speaking for the sanctity of national parks. The National and Provincial Parks Association, the predecessor in name to CPAWS was born in response to this unsatisfactory state of affairs. Similarly, the Wildlands League, an Ontario-based group that would later merge with CPAWS, was created to respond to the conditions in that province. Today's CPAWS stands on the shoulders of these giants of the past. ■



# A Short History of CPAWS: “Keep the Beauty that Came with the Country”

photo Wendy Francis/CPAWS

**The appreciation of nature that drove park creation earlier in the first 50 years of Canada’s existence was all but lost among the Depression and war concerns of the 1930s and 1940s and the love affair with technology and cars in the 1950s. Canada was in need of a dedicated voice for park protection. The National and Provincial Parks Association (NPPAC) was formed in 1963 and set out to revitalize Canadians’ appreciation of wilderness parks. Gavin Henderson was hired as the society’s first executive director with the quiet philanthropic support of Catherine Whyte of Banff. From the beginning, NPPAC married passion and science to defend existing parks and to create new ones.**

NPPAC was at the forefront when in the late 1960s and early 70s a new conservation ethic caught fire in this country. Canada’s centennial spurred a period of nationalism and excitement for national parks. Harkin Award winner Gordon Nelson returned to Canada from his schooling in the United States to help restore environmental activism to our culture. Immigration of progressive Americans to Canada also brought in new skills and energy.

The first big public debates were over development in parks. NPPAC spearheaded a successful fight against road building in the wilderness backcountry in Banff and Jasper National Parks. Then a new threat came with the massive Village Lake Louise proposal spearheaded by Imperial Oil, NPPAC gained widespread support across the country as it fought and prevented the creation of a massive resort at Lake Louise

in Banff National Park. Meanwhile in Ontario, the Wildlands League successfully sought an end to logging in Quetico and helped ensure it would be a great wilderness park.

But NPPAC had an agenda more ambitious than simply preventing the degradation of existing parks. Canada’s wilderness was fast disappearing. We needed new parks across the country. A hydro dam was proposed for the NWT’s South Nahanni River at spectacular Virginia Falls. NPPAC raised a national cry against this outrage. Wildlands League’s Bill Mason took Prime Minister Trudeau down the river by canoe. The result soon after was protection of the river corridor in a national park. We had a great ally in Jean Chrétien, then Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs. Past NPPAC president A.P. Frame bet the Minister that he couldn’t establish nine new national parks in five years. Frame was pleased to lose the bet soundly—Chrétien

established 11 national parks in all during this tenure, and also introduced public hearings as part of national park planning. Chrétien’s work was honoured with the organization’s first Harkin award in 1972.

This golden period of park establishment faded in the late 70s and early 80s. NPPAC and the Wildlands League merged. With notable exceptions like the successful campaign to protect South Moresby Island in Gwaii Haanas National Park, few new protected areas were created. In the mid 1980s the organization led by Bob Peart, Stan Rowe, Jim Butler and Ted Mosquin changed its name to the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. CPAWS embraced the new findings of conservation biology. Island protected areas were doomed to lose species. Massive fragmentation of the wild landscape through roads and other development was unraveling the tapestry of life.

We were well positioned to move ahead when the United Nations Brundtland Report on the environment was released and public concern began to grow. Building on it, in 1990 CPAWS together with World Wildlife Fund Canada launched the Endangered Spaces Campaign. Its goal was to protect at least 12% of every natural region in Canada in a representative system of protected areas. Every type of ecosystem deserved some protection. Every government embraced it (at least rhetorically). Many new parks were created in the 1990s, notably through Lands for Life in Ontario, British Columbia’s Protected Areas Strategy, and in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Newfoundland, Yukon, and Nova Scotia. Some, like the Tatshenshini, were globally significant.

Though representing natural regions was an essential building block in any effort to protect wild nature, the science

told us that it would not be sufficient. Protected areas cannot function as islands in seas of development. CPAWS therefore joined with The Wildlands Project and many other conservation groups and scientists to launch the innovative Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, which would link large protected wilderness habitats with wildlife movement corridors throughout the Rockies. Led by George Smith in 1992, our Muskwa-Kechika campaign resulted in 16 million acres of protected wilderness. The campaign was based on the habitat needs of the greatest large mammal abundance and diversity in North America. MK turned park preservation upside down. The area contains protected wilderness parks as well as special management zones in which limited development is allowed—a reversal of the usual model, where limited parks are allowed in a sea of development.

*continued on page 20*



continued from page 19

Meanwhile, we had to rally to the defence of national parks again. A building boom in Banff National Park in the 1980s was eroding the park's ecological integrity. Logging was licensed in Wood Buffalo National Park. In a groundbreaking 1992 lawsuit, CPAWS and the Sierra Legal Defence Fund successfully sued the government and stopped the logging. A national campaign to stop development in Banff launched in 1993 caught the imagination of the Canadian public. Development was capped. The National Parks Act was amended to make ecological integrity the first consideration in park management. A panel of experts appointed by Minister Sheila Copps toured the country and found the park system was at risk. New money was provided to manage existing parks better and an action plan to largely complete the national parks system was announced in 2002 by Prime Minister Chrétien. The ship started heading in the right direction but much work remains. Nahanni National Park Reserve, for example, is threatened by a proposed upstream mine.

CPAWS has grown from a small founding group in 1963 to the most field-based non-governmental conservation organization in the country. We have chapters in every part of the country, north, south, east, and west, and over 15,000 members. CPAWS is active on behalf of the Canadian wilderness wherever it may be found.

No group achieves anything alone. The relationships CPAWS has formed with progressive businesses, governments, First Nations, and conservation colleagues have been crucial to our success. We're currently part of a partnership to build interest in Forest Stewardship Council paper, prepared from forests managed to maintain biodiversity and ecological integrity. We're working with First Nations people on the west coast to preserve marine habitat damaged by overfishing, and our advocacy for a wolf protection buffer around Algonquin Park has won support from the Ontario government.

But we don't stand on our laurels. In conjunction with the Canadian Boreal Initiative, CPAWS is leading the effort to protect at least 50% of Canada's

enormous boreal region in protected areas and to ensure world-class standards of careful resource use on the rest of the landscape. The boreal is one of the three largest intact forests in the world, home to an incredible diversity of plants and animals. We are proposing the application of a reverse matrix, meaning that conservation comes first and development should be embedded in a sea of conservation, instead of the other way around.

These are exciting times. Canada has an amazing opportunity to be a global leader in nature protection. Some things haven't changed—our newsletter editor lamented in 1972 that too many people assume the government would take care of parks without input from the public and conservationists—a misconception that's still prevalent today. We're working with industry, local communities, First Nations, other nonprofits and government, and you can get involved too. For, as always, it is only the engaged citizen that motivates society to protect nature. ■



### Yes, I'd like to order CPAWS Merchandise!

Help us get the CPAWS name out there! Purchase CPAWS merchandise today, and wear it with pride to let everyone know that you support Canada's voice for wilderness! Call 1-800-333-WILD or visit [www.cpaws.org](http://www.cpaws.org) to place an order.

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Natural colour t-shirt, with CPAWS logo on front left. S, M, L, XL.



#### CPAWS Baseball Cap - \$25.00

Natural colour cap, with CPAWS "paw" embroidered on front. One size, with adjustable back strap.



#### CPAWS Nalgene Bottle - \$13.00

Green transparent bottle with CPAWS logo. 900 ml, wide mouth, with black loop-top lid.



1-800-333-WILD  
[www.cpaws.org](http://www.cpaws.org)

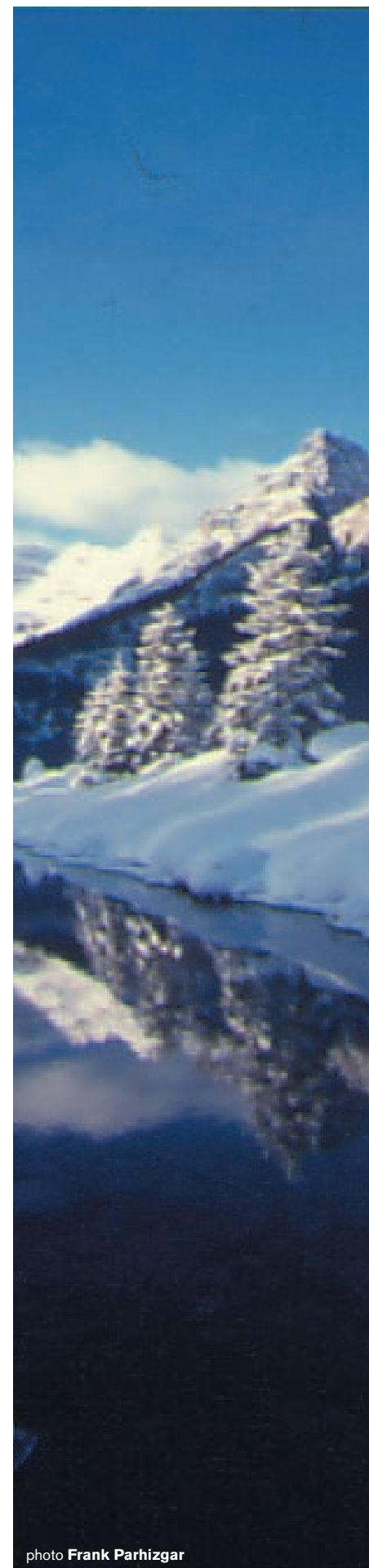


photo Frank Parhizgar

# Sommaire du Rapport Annuel 2004 de la SNAP

## 2004 a été une année bien remplie pour la conservation de la nature! Nous avons gagné une nouvelle section, de nouvelles perspectives pour la conservation ainsi que des gains importants sur le terrain.

- En novembre dernier, une nouvelle section s'est ajoutée à la SNAP, soit celle du Nouveau-Brunswick, ouvrant ainsi la porte à de nouvelles perspectives de conservation pour la province. La nouvelle section de la SNAP-N.-B. entend poursuivre et étendre les efforts entrepris sous la Coalition pour la protection des espaces naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick.
- Plusieurs projets récents misaient sur un heureux mariage entre la nature sauvage et les arts. La tournée pan canadienne « *True North Wild and Free* » réunissant chansons, contes et images de la forêt boréale s'arrêta dans 10 villes canadiennes. La section SNAP-Yukon a gagné une prestigieuse bourse de la part du Centre pour les Arts de Banff pour son exposition ambulante « *Three Rivers: Wild Waters, Sacred Places* ». Les œuvres présentées par les artistes sont inspirées par les rivières Wind, Snake et Bonnet Plume. De plus, le livre « *Rendezvous with the Wild—The Boreal Forest* », édité par James Raffan fut publié cet automne. On y retrouve une compilation de textes, d'images et d'œuvres artistiques tirées des expéditions de canot entreprises lors du Rendez-vous Boréale de 2003. Ce livre à couverture rigide est d'ailleurs le premier en Amérique nord à être imprimé sur du papier certifié FSC (Forest Stewardship Council).
- Sur le terrain, nous avons également eu de belles avancées. Après des années de pression de la part de la SNAP-Vallée de l'Outaouais, le gouvernement de l'Ontario a finalement proposé une zone tampon aux abords du Parc Algonquin pour la conservation du loup. Cette zone tampon protégera les loups de la chasse quand ils sortiront des limites du parc. De plus, un rapport de la SNAP souligne l'importance d'agir immédiatement pour le maintien des populations de caribou forestier et de son habitat. La forêt boréale canadienne qui abrite le caribou forestier est soumise, à d'intenses pressions de développement. De plus, la SNAP-Montréal et l'UQCN ont gagné une injonction provisoire contre le projet de construction d'un oléoduc qui passerait à travers le Parc d'Oka. La décision, donnant lieu à un précédent, reconnaît le rôle des groupes de conservation à faire respecter la loi sur les Parcs auprès des compagnies et du gouvernement. ■





# Nouvelles de la SNAP-Montréal

photo Unknown

La SNAP a participé activement aux travaux de la Commission d'étude sur la gestion de la forêt publique québécoise (Commission Coulombe) dans le but d'influencer le résultat en faveur d'une foresterie écosystémique qui maintient de grandes superficies sauvages. Plusieurs suggestions émises dans le mémoire conjoint de la SNAP et du WWF-Canada ont été débattues lors des tables rondes et ont été reprises dans le rapport final de la Commission. Grâce à la campagne *Aux arbres citoyens!* qui a connue une popularité sans précédent, la population québécoise a pu s'informer, manifester ses inquiétudes face à l'avenir de la forêt et faire pression sur les décideurs pour la mise en œuvre des recommandations de la Commission Coulombe.

Le gouvernement québécois cherche à reporter son engagement de protéger 8 % de la superficie du Québec à la fin de son mandat électoral. Ceci constitue un nouveau report d'au

moins deux ans dans la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie québécoise sur les aires protégées (SQAP), déjà notoire pour ses lenteurs. La SNAP utilise toutes les tribunes à sa disposition pour rappeler au gouvernement son engagement de mettre sur pied un véritable réseau d'aires protégées.

Bien que les audiences publiques se succèdent pour les nouvelles aires protégées, à ce jour aucun statut permanent de protection n'a été accordé pour ces sites d'intérêt écologique et patrimonial. La SNAP a collaboré avec les groupes régionaux pour que la rivière Ashuapmushuan et le lac Sabourin qui abrite une harde de caribous forestiers soient enfin protégés de façon permanente des activités industrielles.

La SNAP, l'UQCN et leurs partenaires ont gagné une injonction provisoire contre le projet de construction d'un oléoduc qui passerait à travers le Parc d'Oka. La décision,

donnant lieu à un précédent, reconnaît le rôle des groupes de conservation à faire respecter la loi sur les Parcs auprès des compagnies et du gouvernement.

La SNAP a contribué au succès médiatique de la descente de la rivière Magpie sur la Côte-Nord. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Earth River et plusieurs groupes environnementaux ont joint leurs efforts pour faire connaître le potentiel écotouristique et les paysages de cette magnifique rivière et ainsi militer en faveur de sa protection contre les mini-barrages hydroélectriques.

La SNAP a poursuivi ses efforts pour contrer un projet néfaste d'échange de terrains au parc provincial du Mont-Orford. En effet, un important projet de développement immobilier et touristique au cœur même du parc menace l'intégrité écologique de cet emblème. La position de la SNAP à ce sujet s'est d'ailleurs fait entendre dans plusieurs médias et auprès des décideurs. ■

## CPAWS Wildlands League —Innovation in Northern Conservation



photo Lori Labatt

Northern Ontario is the heart of the boreal forest, a sweeping network of lakes, wetlands, trees, and rich biological diversity. Ontario's boreal is also the heart of boreal conservation in Canada, an engine that drives research and policy across the nation. The Wildlands League, which is based in Toronto and is CPAWS' largest chapter, has been the driving force behind the nationwide push for better policy, better industrial practices, and a renewed interest in protecting the boreal forest.

Ontario's northern boreal is an untouched, largely roadless wilderness that has up until now been free of logging. Wildlands League's approach to the boreal has spurred a new way of looking at northern development

—putting conservation and science first. The League's efforts are based on the latest science—the chapter recently researched and wrote a comprehensive report on alternatives to boreal clearcutting, a first in Canada. Wildlands also engages the public in its efforts, whether by working with over 30 groups across the province in creating a draft Parks Act, or by launching the successful Boreal Rendezvous canoe journey, which brought national attention to boreal conservation.

The Wildlands League has been a national leader in helping to establish the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forestry certification process. FSC certified loggers use the best conservation practices to maintain the

ecological integrity of forests. Thanks in part to Wildlands League's work, FSC paper is growing in popularity nationwide. Many of CPAWS' publications, including this one, are printed on FSC stock. In addition, Wildlands has established the world's first process to ensure that decisions about industrial forest licenses are directly tied to forest creation.

Innovative, fundamental advances in the way we approach conservation—this has been Wildlands League's trademark since it's founding nearly 40 years ago. Ontario's boreal may lack the sweeping mountain vistas of its western counterparts, but the advances in conservation made here are just as inspiring. ■



# Harkin Award



Pioneering conservationist J.B. Harkin

The Harkin Conservation Award was established by CPAWS in 1972 to honour the memory and achievements of James Bernard Harkin, Canada's first Commissioner of National Parks (1911–1936). The award was created to recognize special Canadians who have served the cause of conservation with distinction.



This year, CPAWS is proud to present Dr. James Gordon Nelson with the J.B. Harkin Conservation Award. Dr. Nelson has been active in conservation and national parks issues for more than 35 years. His work in protecting Jasper and Banff National Parks from development was pivotal

in renewing Canadian conservation activism. In the 1970s, Dr. Nelson served as president of the National Parks and Protected Areas Association of Canada, which later became CPAWS. We are honoured to have Dr. Nelson as a trustee emeritus of CPAWS. ■

## In Memoriam

CPAWS has been very fortunate to have dozens of dedicated volunteers donating thousands of hours per year, all over the country. We lost two great friends and supporters this year, Phil Lulman and Joe Buell.

### Phil Lulman

As vice-chair, and then chair of CPAWS – Calgary/Banff's Board of Directors, Phil Lulman was instrumental in protecting Alberta's K-Country from further commercialization, and in building the Calgary/Banff chapter into a more stable and sustainable organization. He will be remembered for his optimism and his talent for eloquent conservation advocacy. In Phil's memory, the Calgary/Banff chapter has established the Phil Lulman Memorial Award. The award will be presented each year to a volunteer who exemplifies Phil's courage and commitment to volunteer service.

### Joe Buell

For five years, Joe Buell came to the CPAWS national office each day to answer phones, prepare mailings, and help with office tasks. Simply having such a dedicated volunteer is remarkable enough, but Joe, accompanied by his guide dog Chip, did all of this without the benefit of sight. A longtime volunteer with nonprofits, Joe was honoured by Volunteer Ottawa in 2001 for his service. He passed away in February 2004.




Some things should last forever.

Some things have shaped who we are.

Some things have a purpose beyond comprehension.

Some things are irreplaceably Canadian.

 CPAWS Protecting Canada's Wilderness since 1963

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When you join the Wilderness Protection Club, your monthly donation helps save hectares of wild land, every day.

**Our Guarantee:**  
You can change or cancel your pledge at any time by contacting CPAWS. You will receive your tax receipt at the end of the year.

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I authorize CPAWS to receive my monthly donation from my:

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Credit Card on the 15th of each month (My credit card details are noted below)



We look forward to sending you this CPAWS lapel pin, a WPC member exclusive.

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photo Scott McMann



photo Donnie Reid



photo Donnie Reid

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