

# Canadian WILDERNESS

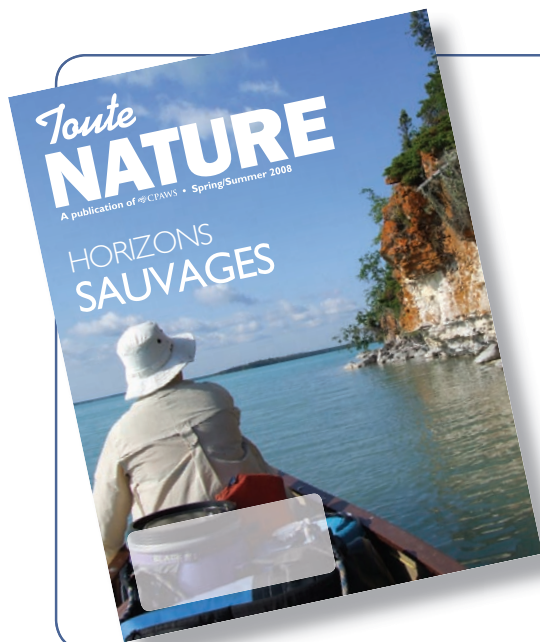
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## GO WILD THIS SEASON

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launch The Big Wild™**

 **CPAWS**  
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY

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**Cover:** Little Limestone Lake, Manitoba, by Roger Turenne.

"The photo was taken on a cool morning before the sun had a chance to seriously stir up the calcite deposits and change its colour. We had paddled around the Lake to identify the most scenic spots because I knew that a week and a half later I would be bringing Manitoba's Minister of Conservation on a tour of the Lake. I wanted to make sure he was duly impressed. He was."

**Above:** The Peel river is part of Yukon's Three Rivers wilderness. Read more about the Three Rivers on page 10. Photo by Theresa Gulliver.



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

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## Take a Big step for wilderness

by Sherri Watson

Have you ever noticed how many commercials on TV and in the glossy magazines use a backdrop of wilderness to sell a product, like an SUV? It isn't by accident that marketers do this. In our society, values and spiritual things tend to be used subliminally.

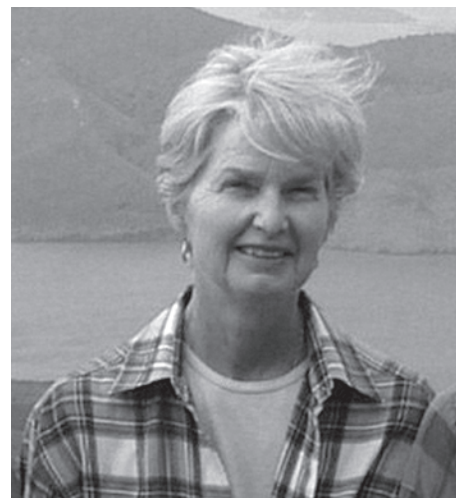
**G**rowth, measurement, acquisitions to show off our success—these are the stuff of modernity. Marketers, however, know that most people value and long for nature—Henry Thoreau's tonic for happiness.

But Canada's wilderness, and the wonderful species and cultures that depend on it—ultimately all living things—could disappear if we don't protect it from the cumulative effects of piecemeal development and the ravages of climate change. CPAWS' goal is to do just that. We have a vision of keeping at least half of Canada's lands and waters wild forever.

And now we've joined forces with an important partner to help us to realize our vision. Mountain Equipment Co-op—Canada's leading outdoor retailer and a progressive, socially responsible business—has joined with CPAWS to create The Big Wild, an opportunity for those who care about our wild places to get involved directly in their protection, share their passion with others, and get in touch with nature first hand.

We are inviting people who care about Canada's wilderness but have never voiced their care before to start by "doing something small to save something big". The information and action hub for the initiative is online at [thebigwild.org](http://thebigwild.org). This website is the place where people can learn more about the need to protect Canada's wilderness, share their own stories, and show their support for the cause.

The Big Wild will support conservation campaigns across Canada for our "big wild" places. People can get involved



at the very simple level of signing on to the website to indicate that they support our vision. They can pick up a pair of green laces at a MEC store to wear their Big Wild support. Or they can go further, by sharing their wilderness experiences with others through stories and images, or dedicating a wilderness trip to the cause of conservation—by taking a Big Wild Challenge.

I'm signing up to a ten-day wilderness hike in the Rockies next summer. I hope that you and your friends will also get involved with The Big Wild. CPAWS and MEC share a big vision of Canada as a model for wilderness protection—and if we all get involved, we can make it happen.

**I invite you to add your voice to the movement!**

**thebigwild.org™**

Sherri Watson is CPAWS' National President.

# CPAWS is protecting Canada's BIG WILD places

CPAWS' vision is that Canada will keep at least half of our public land and water wild forever. Our work is focused on four geographic regions in Canada where there's still time to protect large, interconnected, fully functioning ecosystems. We're also dedicated to ensure our parks are protected—forever.

## BOREAL FOREST

The world's largest remaining forest, Canada's Boreal is also home to the threatened Woodland caribou. Where the caribou still roam, the forest is healthy. That's why we're focused on protecting their habitat.



CPAWS MANITOBA



RON THIESSEN

## EASTERN WOODLANDS

Throughout Canada's east, vital wildlife corridors and refuges for millions of urbanites still thrive, but for how long? From Nova Scotia to Ontario, our vision is forever!



MIKE BEEDELL/CPAWS

## YELLOWSTONE TO YUKON

The "world's best chance" to conserve a fully functioning mountain ecosystem, CPAWS is working to protect key wilderness sites from the Yukon and NWT down to southern BC and Alberta.



MIKE BEEDELL/CPAWS

## PARKS FOREVER

Our country's parks are supposed to be sanctuaries not just for people but for the wildlife within them. It's not always the case, but we're working to change that.



JIM CORNISH

## OCEANS AND FRESHWATER

While under severe threat in many areas, our waters still shelter an amazing array of marine ecosystems and our goal is that Canada establishes a network of marine conservation areas.



# Canada's Eastern Woodlands

Time to save  
the wilderness in  
our backyard

by Roberta Clowater

SHIP HARBOUR LONG LAKE, NOVA SCOTIA. PHOTO: CHRIS MILLER

Though increasingly threatened, wild Atlantic salmon and trout still swim in many of eastern Canada's rivers, and birds seem to sing from every other tree.

From Ontario's Algonquin Provincial Park to the Atlantic shores of the Maritime Provinces, Canada's Eastern Woodlands carpet the ancient ridges of the southern Canadian Shield and the Appalachian Mountain range, and roll down onto the coastal plains of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Within a day's drive for over six million Canadians, these woodlands and their surrounding waters are vital for clean water, clean air, fertile soils—for the health of our planet.

CPAWS has a bold, ambitious yet doable vision for conserving this part of our country—a recreation haven for 14 million human visitors each year, and home to black bear, lynx, marten, fox, moose and deer.

Over much of the region, only scattered remnants of old-growth remain. Yet logging continues in these critical habitats for so many species. New Brunswick once held 60% of the Acadian Forest. Today it only houses 4%. In Nova Scotia, less than 1% of Acadian Forest old-growth remains.

CPAWS' chapters in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario are working together across provinces to transform our conservation vision for the Eastern Woodlands into reality.

Our goal is to establish networks of protected areas that connect wilderness across the region—including across provincial and international borders, because that is the best way to enable ecosystems and wildlife to recover and survive.

We're also working internationally, as founding members of two Canada-U.S. networks of groups—Two Countries, One Forest (2C1Forest) and the Algonquin to Adirondacks (A2A) Conservation Association—to identify the critical ecological links in the Eastern Woodlands that must be protected.

Our intent is to bolster nature's ability to respond to the stresses created by a warming climate. We want to change the way we do business so that we can leave a natural legacy for our children to experience.

*Roberta Clowater is executive director of CPAWS New Brunswick and chair of CPAWS' Eastern Woodlands Conservation Committee.*

## Dumoine, QC

CPAWS' campaign to protect this whitewater dream river—the last one to flow wild in southern Quebec—surrounded by the largest, unprotected intact forest in the Eastern Woodlands—has made ground. The Quebec government has identified it as a potential protected area and local communities support establishment of a new park reserve.

## Ship Harbour Long Lake, NS

Last year, with encouragement from CPAWS, Ecology Action Centre and Eastern Shore Forest Watch, the province declared 14,000 hectares of this area as a "candidate" site for protection. It's a truly magical stretch of unbroken Acadian forest place that has escaped the clearcutting rampant in other parts of Nova Scotia. Paddlers may catch a glimpse of ospreys and bald eagles and even the endangered mainland moose here, yet a nearby gold mine proposal threatens to tip the ecological balance.

## Restigouche, NB

A salmon fishing haven, home to important populations of Canada lynx, marten and moose, and the largest unprotected stretch of wilderness in New Brunswick, CPAWS' five-year goal is to conserve the Restigouche by protecting at least 40,000 hectares and supporting sustainable local businesses.

**Find out how you can help to protect these areas at [www.cpaws.org](http://www.cpaws.org).**

# Why parks need protectors

by Dave Poulton

In the 1990s, Banff was the focus of an intense Canada-wide debate. After a decade of burgeoning growth in commercial and tourist facilities, the ecological future of Canada's premier national park was in doubt.

CPAWS was proud to be a national leader in speaking up for nature, and for limits on development. As a result of our efforts, and those of Canadians across the country, today there are strict limits on the growth of the park townsites and commercial accommodations.

We have learned from our experience in Banff and many other places that our work cannot stop when we achieve success in the creation of a new park or protected area. That's why we have to be prepared to roll up our sleeves and make sure that all parks and protected areas are properly managed, resourced, and cared for.

While Canadians consistently exhibit their love for parks and the wild nature they contain, the struggle to convert that good will into political support is never-ending.

In Ontario's Algonquin Park, logging is a little-seen but widely occurring activity. More than 8,000 kilometres of logging roads criss-cross the park, and less than 25% of it is strictly protected from this form of industry. CPAWS is leading a campaign to phase out logging in this beloved stretch of forests and lakes made famous by Canada's Group of Seven artists.

In Quebec, "SOS Mont Orford", a group of community-based organizations including CPAWS, banded together in 2006 when the provincial government attempted to sell off part of Mont Orford park to private condominium developers.



CPAWS (SNAP in French) at Quebec's largest environmental rally to save Mont Orford Park, 2006.

The deal was called off after large-scale public outcry, but the threat to the park's future remains, as the law allowing the province to sell off park lands that was passed to allow the Mont Orford transaction has yet to be repealed.

Along with CPAWS' efforts to save Banff National Park, we have also provided national leadership when a federal blue ribbon panel examined the ecological integrity of Canada's national parks in 2000. We've opposed logging, and an intrusive new road in Wood Buffalo National Park.

We contributed to the current provisions of the Canada National Parks Act, and several provincial parks statutes. We have successfully worked for greater protection for wolves in Ontario's Algonquin Provincial Park and we have worked in many jurisdictions to see that parks are better funded and managed.

It is because of the Banffs, Algonquins, Mont Orfords and many other, less famous parks across Canada that we continue to act as a watch dog for our parks' natural integrity. Our success relies on the support of citizens who support our vision that Canada's parks will be havens for nature forever more. Today, your voice can make a difference for the future of Algonquin and Mont Orford parks.

*Dave Poulton is Executive Director of CPAWS Calgary/Banff and chair of CPAWS' Parks Forever conservation committee.*

## Algonquin: park or industrial zone?

With more kilometres of logging roads than the City of Toronto has in urban roads, Ontario's Algonquin Park is under threat. Just over 20% of the park is off limits to logging, despite a recommendation last year from the Ontario Parks Board that the protected area be increased to over 50%.

But there is movement. Ontario Natural Resources Minister Donna Cansfield has asked authorities to produce a new report on how to reduce the footprint of logging in the park. If you are concerned about the future of this iconic Canadian park, you can add your voice to those of others at [www.savealgonquin.ca](http://www.savealgonquin.ca) —CPAWS *Wildlands League*

## Mont-Orford Park's future still to be decided

Mont-Orford National Park (in Québec, Provincial Parks are called National Parks) may only be 58 km<sup>2</sup>, but it protects a rare example of southern Québec deciduous forest. Although it is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this spring, its future is still a leading CPAWS priority. Although the 2006 proposed sale of part of its lands for private development was reversed last year, the lands in question haven't been reintegrated into the park. CPAWS and other organizations united within "SOS Mont Orford" invite you to remind the Quebec government of the importance of protecting the ecological integrity of our parks. Visit <http://cpaws.org/help/action/orford.php>. —*Marieve Marchand*



# YELLOWSTONE to YUKON

*Canada's links in a great  
mountain ecosystem chain*

**D**ubbed “the world’s last best chance” to conserve a fully functioning set of mountain ecosystems, Canada’s portion of the Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) corridor is under growing threat as industrial development proposals mount in areas once considered too far from anything to be worthwhile. At the same time, as the climate warms, glaciers melt and the landscape changes. This means species like grizzly bears and wolves that have lived in this region for millennia need room to adapt.

For over 3,000 km, this mountain chain stretches from the Yukon and NWT’s Mackenzie range through the Rockies of eastern British Columbia and western Alberta on into Idaho, Montana and Wyoming’s Yellowstone National Park.

CPAWS is a major force in conserving the Y2Y region. In 1993, we helped found the Y2Y Conservation Initiative, an international network that now includes over 160 organizations, all working to maintain and restore the unique natural heritage of the Y2Y region and the quality of life it affords residents and visitors alike.

In the southernmost Canadian Rockies, our spotlight is focused on the urgent

need to protect critical wildlife corridors across provincial and international boundaries. Here, the forested slopes and valleys of the Rockies narrow to a funnel through which wide-ranging wildlife like grizzly bears and wolves roam between Canada and the United States. The Castle wilderness and the Flathead Valley are vital parts of these corridors.

In the northern portion of Y2Y, our progress is mixed. On the positive

side, last summer the Prime Minister committed to a massive expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve in the Northwest Territories, and temporarily protected the South Nahanni Watershed — an area bigger than Vancouver Island — to enable this expansion.

Meanwhile, mining companies are poised to start bulldozing into the Yukon’s extraordinary Three Rivers wilderness area.

## Flathead Valley, BC

West of Waterton Lakes National Park lies British Columbia’s wild Flathead Valley with the highest density of grizzly bears in inland North America and a lifeline for animals moving across the Canada/US border. The valley is threatened by proposed coal and coal bed methane extraction which could pollute the pristine Flathead River flowing into Montana. CPAWS is working with partners on both sides of the international border to establish a conservation-first land-use plan for this BC treasure that would ban mining and create a national park within a larger wildlife management area.

## Castle Wilderness, AB

The Castle Wilderness is an ecological gem located in the southwest corner of Alberta, one which is appreciating in value. For many years there have been calls to protect the Castle, and not just from environmental groups. Several Alberta regulators have noted its significance and called for better protection of this landscape. In October of 2007, a spokesperson for Shell Canada, the major industrial player in the region, told a regulatory hearing that Shell does not oppose protection of the Castle. Since then, local landowners groups and municipalities have expressed interest in protective options. Pressure on the Alberta government to act is growing, and CPAWS is happy to play a prominent role in the effort.



# The GOOD and BAD NEWS about CANADA'S OCEANS

by Carrie West

According to a recent groundbreaking study published in *Science*, every area of the world's oceans is feeling the effects of fishing, pollution, or human-caused global warming, including Canada's coastal waters.

A team of scientists created the first global map showing the various kinds of damage being inflicted upon marine ecosystems. The team assigned scores to 17 human impacts and added them up for every ocean region to reveal the overall effect people are having on marine life. They found that more than 40 percent of the world's marine ecosystems are heavily affected, and just 4 percent remain in a pristine condition.

The good news for Canada is that our Arctic coastal waters still shelter some of the rare remaining remnants of pristine marine ecosystems. The bad news is that along our southerly eastern and western shorelines, humans have created moderate to severe harm to the aquatic ecosystems.

Along the densely populated coasts of the world, including North America's, continental shelves and slopes are the most heavily affected areas. The most widespread human impact is the drop in pH of surface waters around the world as carbon dioxide is absorbed in marine waters, where it forms carbonic acid. This change in ocean chemistry is one impact from global warming that when combined with warming ocean temperatures could eventually have catastrophic consequences as shell-forming plankton and reef-building corals are disrupted.

Even the scientists involved were surprised at the full extent of the human impact on the oceans. They found that no area in the sea, no matter how remote, is immune to human impacts. Their work builds on studies by many others on the decline in marine ecosystems and the urgent need to protect and restore them before they become permanent aquatic deserts.

One of the keys to helping our oceans to survive the damage we have inflicted is to create marine protected areas. CPAWS has been urging the federal government to establish these refuges for marine life for over 20 years. So far, less than one percent of Canada's coastal waters are protected—leaving us far behind many other countries, and a long ways from meeting our international commitment to establish a network of Marine Protected Areas by 2012 to conserve important ocean ecosystems.

*Carrie West is Communications Coordinator for CPAWS British Columbia.*



## Gwaii Haanas Canada's next marine protected area?

by Sabine Jessen

The sea of Gwaii Haanas, at the southern end of an archipelago of 38 islands formerly known as "the Queen Charlottes" off the coast of British Columbia is one of the richest marine environments in the world, but it remains unprotected despite the commitments made over 20 years ago. Although oil and gas exploration has been off limits since 1997, commercial fishing operations are still active in these waters, including for geoduck, urchins, rockfish, and herring.

A 1988 agreement committed to the establishment of the national park reserve, a future national marine conservation area (NMCA) reserve and a Haida Heritage Site over the whole area. The NMCA would protect over 3000 km<sup>2</sup> of this rich and magnificent ocean realm.

All that's needed now is for the federal government and the Council of the Haida Nation to create a management plan for the site.

*Sabine Jessen is CPAWS' National Manager of Marine Programs.*

PHOTO: FLICKR/SEEINGBEAUTY

# The Boreal Opportunity

Our Boreal forest buffers against climate change, storing large amounts of carbon and providing refuge for wildlife to adapt as their habitats change. CPAWS is working across Canada to protect the Boreal's lands, waters and wildlife.

## **Reducing impacts of Victor Diamond Mine, ON**

This massive diamond mine in northeastern Ontario near Attawapiskat on James Bay will cut into one of the world's largest intact wilderness areas, home to First Nations and to abundant wildlife, including threatened Woodland caribou. CPAWS Wildlands League and partners are calling on the province to fully assess the impacts of this major industrial development and others in Ontario's north before permitting them to proceed.

## **Saving the Athabasca Heartland, AB**

Near Wood Buffalo National Park in northeastern Alberta, wolves and bison still roam freely, far from roads or industrial activity. CPAWS Northern Alberta chapter's goal is to establish a world-class conservation area here with a network of protected areas and strict controls on industrial practices for the remaining landscape.

## **Protecting Labrador's Mealy Mountains, NL**

Reaching heights of more than one kilometre, Labrador's Mealy Mountains are an island of arctic tundra surrounded by Boreal forests and coastal seascapes in Southeastern Labrador. CPAWS Newfoundland/Labrador chapter is campaigning to protect this delicate landscape and its threatened wildlife, including Woodland caribou, by creating a new national park—a concept first proposed in the early 1970s!

## **Saving Vallee des Montagnes Blanches, QC**

Home to threatened Woodland caribou herds, the Quebec North Shore and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean's Vallée des Montagnes Blanches shelters one of the last large intact forests south of the province's logging boundary. Working with local First Nations, CPAWS is trying to protect the region by establishing a conservation-first land use planworking to ensure the protection of this threatened species and many others in the valley.

## **Making the case for conservation before development in the Northwest Territories**

CPAWS is working with Aboriginal communities, federal and territorial governments, industry and other conservation groups to establish a network of protected areas in the NWT's Mackenzie Valley, before large-scale development occurs there. It's a race against time as the pressure for more development in the north rises. For Aboriginal communities, the valley is a vital hunting, trapping and fishing ground that supports traditional lifestyles. Its intact forests and peatlands are a haven for many species such as Woodland caribou, and serve as a massive natural carbon reserve.

## **Expanding NWT's Nahanni National Park Reserve**

A final decision from the federal government on the new boundaries for this world famous park is expected soon. CPAWS has been leading a public campaign for over five years to expand this park reserve and World Heritage Site to protect the entire South Nahanni watershed. One of the world's "top 10" paddling rivers, home to over 600 grizzly bears and thousands of woodland caribou, Nahanni is also a place of great spiritual importance to local First Nations.

## **Protecting the east side of Lake Winnipeg, MB**

The east side of Manitoba's Lake Winnipeg is in the heart of the Earth's largest roadless and wild Boreal forest region. This spectacular wilderness area, larger than all of New Brunswick, shelters threatened Woodland caribou, rushing rivers, aboriginal culture, and abundant wildlife. CPAWS- Manitoba and other groups are working to protect this landscape and to promote sustainable local economies. A provincial land use planning process is underway, and citizens are urged to add their voice. Visit [www.cpawsmb.org](http://www.cpawsmb.org) to learn more.

# PROTECT CARIBOU, STORE CARBON

You may have spotted Caribou Man in your city. With CPAWS' help, he's making his way across the country to spread the word on protecting his boreal forest home. And he's asking people to help him out by signing a message of support at [www.caribouandyou.ca](http://www.caribouandyou.ca).

This guy is a YouTube star. He's a poster boy too. Earlier this year his picture was in Mountain Equipment Co-op stores across the country. He's getting around to rock concerts, farmers markets and even Environment Minister John Baird's riding in Ottawa.

But Caribou Man isn't just a cute and cuddly critter. He has an important message to deliver—Woodland caribou are nationally threatened and to survive, they need your help.

By saving the threatened woodland caribou's remaining Boreal forest habitat across Canada, we'll also help protect one of the world's largest remaining carbon reserves, and slow the effects of climate change.

These shy inhabitants of Canada's Boreal Forest have already disappeared from over half of their original range, due to habitat loss and fragmentation caused by roads and industrial development.

Help Caribou Man tell Canada's governments to act now to protect his Boreal forest home.

[www.caribouandyou.ca](http://www.caribouandyou.ca)



WHEN THE CARIBOU IS IN DANGER, WE ARE TOO.

By saving the woodland caribou's remaining Boreal Forest habitat, we'll also help protect one of the world's largest natural carbon reserves, and slow the effects of climate change. Help us.  
[CARIBOUANDYOU.CA](http://CARIBOUANDYOU.CA)

 **CPAWS**  
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY



## Yukon government decision will allow winter roads in Three Rivers wilderness

Despite unprecedented public, First Nations, and tourism industry concerns, the Yukon government has approved a mining company's permit to build a network of winter roads in the Yukon's pristine Three Rivers wilderness.

Vancouver-based Cash Minerals applied in Fall 2007 for a land use permit to build 178 km of winter roads and an airstrip into and along the Wind River to access their multiple uranium claims in the Wind and Bonnet Plume watersheds of northeastern Yukon.

The application sparked public concerns about the negative impacts of the project on wildlife, wilderness and tourism values. Perhaps as a result of further representation by non-governmental organizations, unfavorable media coverage, and the possibility of legal action, the Yukon government removed the airstrip from the project, but agreed the winter road be given the green light in its final decision on January 22, 2008.

The company has not posted a \$90,000 security bond for environmental cleanup and did not proceed with the project last winter, given unfavourable conditions. However, they are entitled to begin bulldozing roads into the Wind River wilderness as early as winter, 2009.

The Wind River is in the heart of the Three Rivers region of the Yukon, known internationally for its spectacular mountains, wildlife and wild rivers. However, the area currently has no legal protection from development. CPAWS Yukon proposes a network of protected areas and conservation lands in these watersheds, in balance with appropriate economic development. The Yukon government decision clears the way for road development and uranium exploration before cooperative land use and conservation planning in the region can be completed. CPAWS-Yukon will continue to encourage an inclusive and conservation oriented land use plan, which is due by the end of 2008.

# YOU'RE INVITED

to attend the 2008 CPAWS Annual General Meeting and 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**November 27, 2008**  
**Ottawa, Ontario**

Members will be presented with the 07/08 Annual Report and Audited Statements.

Look for more details at [www.cpaws.org](http://www.cpaws.org) closer to the event, or call CPAWS 1-800-333-WILD (9453) for more information.

## Huge leap forward for NWT conservation

Last year was a stellar one for wilderness conservation in the Northwest Territories. Last November, CPAWS and conservation partners including other environmental groups and local First Nations welcomed the federal government's protection of more than 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> of Boreal forest in the Northwest Territories—one of the *single largest* land protection initiatives in Canadian history.

The federal government, following negotiations with the Akaitcho First Nations and the community of Fort Good Hope, has set lands aside for a national park and other conservation areas on the East Arm of Great Slave Lake (Thaydene Nene), and for a National Wildlife Area in the Ramparts River and Wetlands region of the Mackenzie Valley (Ts'udeniline Tu'eyeta). The move protects these lands from any new industrial development allocations for up to five years while arrangements for their long term protection are finalized.

This news, following announcements made by the federal government earlier in 2007 to protect the South Nahanni Watershed and Sahoyúé Şehdacho National Historic Site, marks a huge leap forward for northern wilderness protection.

## CPAWS helps plan conservation in Alberta's Athabasca

Celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year of conservation, CPAWS Northern Alberta chapter is helping to finalize a sustainable land management plan for the Athabasca Heartland Wilderness in the province's northeast by late spring that would cover 70,000 km<sup>2</sup> - an area the size of New Brunswick that is threatened by tar sands, mining and forestry.

As a member of the Sustainable Ecosystems Working Group along with industry, aboriginal groups, governments, and other nonprofit organizations, we have developed a plan to protect up to 40% of the Athabasca region, allowing no more than 14% of the area to be intensively developed at any given time.

The Alberta government has indicated that it will use this plan as the basis for the regional management plan it intends to release by the end of 2008. However, we still have a lot of work to do in holding the government to this promise.

## More support for New Brunswick parks

After several years of decreasing investment in parks, CPAWS New Brunswick welcomes the decision by the provincial government to fund the revitalization of trails, campsites and enforcement at Mount Carleton and Sugarloaf Provincial Parks. These spectacular parks for outdoor recreation, along with Macataquac Provincial Park in southern New Brunswick, are also important natural areas that protect expanses of habitat for wildlife like American marten, black bear, barred owls and flying squirrels.

CPAWS New Brunswick is now asking the province to establish park management plans that focus on conserving their wilderness character, and to develop park interpretive programs that will help visitors experience these special natural places.

Contact CPAWS NB at 506-452-9902, or visit our web site at [www.cpawnsb.org](http://www.cpawnsb.org) to learn more.

## Nova Scotia conserves more wild lands and waters

CPAWS and other provincial groups celebrated more wins for Nova Scotia wilderness in early 2008. On land, CPAWS was successful at convincing the province to protect an important ecological area near Halifax called Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes. This near-urban wilderness area shelters 1,350 hectares of forests and lakes on the Chebucto Peninsula. Now it will be protected from sprawling development that has claimed so much wild space near Halifax.

On the marine front, CPAWS was part of a coalition of groups that successfully convinced both the federal and provincial governments to outright reject an environmental assessment for an egregious open-pit mine and marine terminal proposal for the shores of Digby Neck. The proposed project near the Bay of Fundy would have threatened important habitat for some of the highest concentrations of whales in the North Atlantic, including breeding grounds for the endangered Right Whale.



## Newfoundland and Labrador atlas of special marine places launched

CPAWS Newfoundland Labrador and partners will soon be launching a collaborative atlas of the province's special marine places to help identify sites for a new network of marine protected areas that would conserve irreplaceable marine ecosystems. Each of the 56 sites in the Atlas includes a location map and a site description, including flora and fauna, reasons why the area is unique and the possible harm it is facing.

The atlas was conceived at a Marine Areas Workshop organized by CPAWS NL in 2006. Participants, including representatives from universities, government agencies, First Nations, unions and nonprofits, provided background on areas important to invertebrates, vertebrates, plants and for climate and tectonic relicts.

Once the atlas is published, CPAWS NL intends to use it to foster community debate and seek further research and opinions on a marine areas protection plan for these valuable and fragile aquatic areas.

The atlas will be available at [www.cpawsnl.org](http://www.cpawsnl.org)

## Park in northern Quebec closer to reality

CPAWS- Quebec welcomes a recommendation in January from the Quebec Parks Service to establish a new park in the province's far north, adjacent to Labrador, that would protect abundant caribou and polar bears in the area. The parks service is recommending that the new park, called Kuururjuaq, cover an area of 5,300 km<sup>2</sup>, endorsing proposals by both the Kativik Regional Government and CPAWS-Quebec.

An earlier proposal for the park was 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> smaller than this current one and would have threatened the area's ecological integrity by allowing industrial activity to occur in sensitive areas. Now virtually the entire watershed of the Koroc River, from its source in the Torngat mountains to its estuary at Ungava Bay as well as Quebec's tallest peak called Mount D'Iberville/Mount Caubvik, and the only forested valley in the Torngat peninsula will be protected if the government follows through on the recommendation.

CPAWS Quebec will continue working with the governments of Quebec and the Kativik Region to ensure the expansion takes place.



DUMOINE RIVER, QUEBEC. PHOTO: JEAN LANGLOIS

## Quebec communities support two new protected areas in the Outouais

Municipalities in Quebec's Outouais region have thrown their support behind two new protected areas: the Dumoine watershed, north of Ontario's Algonquin Park, and Mount O'Brien, northeast of Ottawa/Gatineau.

Late last year, the Ministère du Développement Durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP), responsible for Quebec protected areas, asked regional governments to comment on a host of proposed protected areas across the province. The survey comes three years after Quebec missed its goal to protect 8% of the province by 2005 under its Quebec Protected Areas Strategy. Although there have been some encouraging signs, the amount of protected land in the province still hovers around 4%.

The Dumoine River watershed is the largest of the potential protected areas, at approximately 1440 km<sup>2</sup> in size. These sites were identified in a 2005 CPAWS Ottawa Valley report as important areas that require protection. CPAWS OV is continuing its efforts to ensure that these and other areas are protected. The chapter is also examining how ecological linkages between Quebec protected areas can be maintained—a topic of particular concern as global climate changes alter ecosystems. Please visit our new website at [www.cpaws-ov-vo.org](http://www.cpaws-ov-vo.org) to learn more about these exciting initiatives.



FLATHEAD VALLEY, BRITISH COLUMBIA  
PHOTO: JULIUS HIBBERT

## Georgia Leroux

*Leaving a legacy for wilderness conservation*

Fernie, BC resident Mrs. Georgia Leroux had a passion for animals and wanted to leave a significant gift for their protection.

Her solicitor Dan Sliva of Fernie attended an event in Cranbrook, BC where George Smith, then CPAWS Conservation Director, talked of the Tatsensheni Provincial Park campaign and the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative. Together Mrs Leroux and her lawyer planned a gift to support CPAWS' work with a particular focus

on the BC portion of the Yellowstone to Yukon Corridor.

CPAWS is hard at work in Mrs. Leroux's former backyard, working with others to protect the Flathead River Valley and wildlife connectivity from there up to Banff National Park.

Bequests like Mrs. Leroux's help make things happen on the ground for the conservation of wilderness and the wild animals that depend on it.

## JON LIEN

Long-time CPAWS supporter to join Order Of Canada

Jon Lien, a longtime and passionate CPAWS supporter, is well known in Newfoundland and Labrador for his work to protect oceans and marine wildlife. Soon, he'll be known for having earned the nation's highest honour: membership in the Order of Canada.

Jon's conservation achievements began with the Whale Release Program, where he worked with fishermen to free whales that became entangled in fishing gear. As the chair of the Minister's Advisory Council on Oceans Jon pushed protection and better management of marine ecosystems to the policy forefront. He was a founding member of several environmental organizations in the province, including the local CPAWS chapter,

Protected Areas Association and Legacy Nature Trust. And last spring, Jon received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the province's Department of Environment and Conservation.

CPAWS NL is building on Jon's contributions with their campaign to establish a National Marine Conservation Area off the southwest coast of Newfoundland.

We congratulate Jon Lien on becoming a member of the Order of Canada. His work will continue to influence us all to protect the ocean environment for generations to come.



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# TALES FROM THE BIG WILD CHALLENGE

To support wilderness protection in Canada, Frank Wolf and Taku Hokoyama canoed 3,100km through Manitoba and Ontario.

Crashing through dense brush with a canoe on my head and a cloud of black flies chewing my face, I realized this was not the portage trail used by most to get from Embryo Lake to Upper Hatchet Lake. In fact, there was no trail.

Poplar and spruce saplings lashed my shins, and fallen logs made me stumble as I worked toward an opening in the canopy where the lake had to be. Taku plugged along behind me, like a running back following his blocker. Only steps before reaching the water something caught my eye in the forest, a reflected light stood out among the browns and greens of the boreal.

Dropping the canoe, I rushed to the shiny bauble like a northern pike to a minnow. A whisky bottle was half-buried in the loamy earth. I pulled it up and inspected it – empty, but for a faded cigarette wrapper with a scrawled message. Turning the bottle, I read through the glass, “Celebrating 50 days on trip, July 12, 1967, Harry Harvey and Bill E —.”

Forty years earlier these fellow canoe trippers passed the same way as us, likely on one of the many expeditions launched in celebration of Canada’s Centennial, long before the area became a park. It really struck home that our wilderness waterways have not only been travelled by trippers for decades, but by voyageurs and First Nations people for centuries.

Ambling off the beaten path toward adventure is a Canadian tradition, one that needs to be preserved. That day in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, discovering Harry and Bill’s glass time capsule, Taku and I felt part of that long tradition. — Frank Wolf



## Take part in the Big Wild Challenge

Frank and Taku’s 75-day odyssey was part of the inaugural year of the Big Wild Challenge. Now you can include your own adventure – even if it lasts only a weekend. Plan a trip to a wild place that inspires you, and dedicate it to wilderness protection. Visit [thebigwild.org/challenge](http://thebigwild.org/challenge).

[thebigwild.org](http://thebigwild.org)<sup>TM</sup>