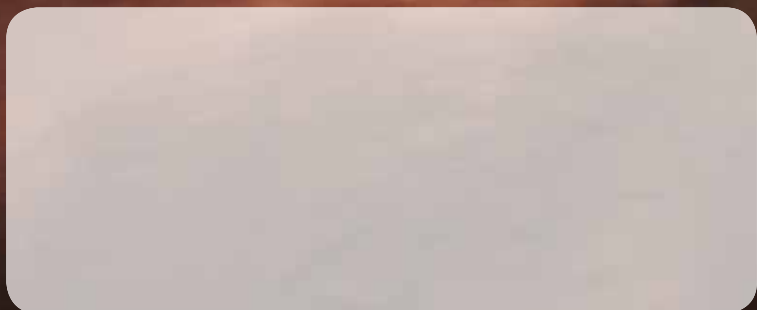


*Canadian*

# WILDERNESS

A publication of  CPAWS • Spring/Summer 2012

parks under  
**THREAT**



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## CONTACT US

CPAWS National Office  
506-250 City Centre Avenue  
Ottawa, ON K1R 6K7  
613-569-7226 or 1-800-333-WILD  
[info@cpaws.org](mailto:info@cpaws.org)  
[www.cpaws.org](http://www.cpaws.org)

CPAWS British Columbia  
604-685-7445  
[www.cpawsbc.org](http://www.cpawsbc.org)

CPAWS Southern Alberta  
403-232-6686  
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[www.cpawsmb.org](http://www.cpawsmb.org)

SNAP (CPAWS) Québec  
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506-452-9902  
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CPAWS is Canada's voice for wilderness. Since 1963, we've played a lead role in creating over two-thirds of Canada's protected areas.

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

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PRESIDENT'S DESK ●

# CPAWS takes the Hill

OLIVER KENT

Influencing government is at the heart of what CPAWS does. Relationships with Parks Canada and its Minister have always been important to our success.

Approving the expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve in a day required support from all political parties – something we achieved because wilderness conservation often crosses party lines.

Two years ago, CPAWS staff and volunteers fanned out for a Parliamentary Lobby Day, as industry associations



The CPAWS crew on Parliament Hill, November 2011.

have long done. I missed our initial effort because of laryngitis, so I was doubly keen to take part this year.

We had 76 meetings scheduled with MPs and Senators of every party – more than a fifth of all members. Some were high profile – the Environment Minister and the NDP and Liberal critics, and the leader of the Green Party. Others were with sympathetic or curious backbench MPs from every part of Canada, matched with CPAWS staff and Board members from their own region.

The CPAWS team assembled the night before to cram about where to go and what to say – and, it turns out, to find a suit for a staff member whose wardrobe runs more to cowboy hats.

When Lobby Day came, we were everywhere on the Hill, waving to each other as we criss-crossed among the half dozen buildings where MPs have their offices. I had meetings scheduled with three members from different parties. A last minute cancellation because MPs were being summoned to vote. A rural MP who was well informed when I asked about the national park in his own riding. A new MP who wanted to hear our whole pitch about marine protected areas, new parks and the proposed National Conservation Plan – and to talk about how he could help.

At midday, the 45 CPAWS staff and Board members assembled by the Centennial Flame for a group photo, then filed in to watch Question Period. It's as bad as it looks on TV, maybe worse, but I was delighted when an MP stood up to welcome the CPAWS group en français.

When our team gathered again at the end of the day, I took away two messages - politicians in all parties are interested in what CPAWS has to say, and when we work together as a national team, we share great strength.

*Oliver Kent is CPAWS' National Board President.*

## Speak up to protect Canada's oceans and you could win!

Less than 1% of Canada's oceans are protected.

Let's change that.

[daretobedeep.ca](http://daretobedeep.ca)

While Canada boasts one of the largest ocean territories in the world, less than 1% of it is protected through meaningful long-term conservation measures. The federal government made a commitment seven years ago to establish a network of marine protected areas by 2012. Since then, we've lost too much time to get a full network in place, but Canada *can* make progress by creating at least 12 new marine protected areas!

Through our Dare to be Deep campaign, we're aiming for 12,000 people to endorse a message to the Federal Government to advance marine conservation through the establishment of 12 new marine protected areas by the end of 2012.

And now, thanks to our partners at Mountain Equipment Co-Op, we're offering you great prizes if you sign on. Just go to [daretobedeep.ca](http://daretobedeep.ca), enter your information, and you could win a \$200 MEC gift card or the grand prize of a stand up paddleboard!

## No herd left behind - 32,045 people speak up for threatened woodland caribou!



As this issue of Canadian Wilderness goes to press, the federal government is putting the last touches on a long-awaited recovery strategy for boreal woodland caribou, required under the Species-at-Risk Act.

CPAWS supporters know well that boreal woodland caribou are threatened across Canada. Many of you have supported our call to the government to adopt a strong recovery strategy that will give this iconic Canadian wildlife species the best possible chance of survival.

Just before the public comment period on the draft federal recovery strategy ended in February, CPAWS caribou mascot Bou and National Executive Director Éric Hébert-Daly delivered the names of over 32,000 people urging the government to protect the woodland caribou - over one name for every estimated remaining member of this species.

CPAWS believes that conserving boreal woodland caribou habitat across the country is possible while also ensuring a prosperous forest sector. We're working to achieve both goals through the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement.

We'll provide an update in the fall on how plans to conserve Canada's boreal caribou are proceeding.

Bou and CPAWS National Executive Director Éric Hébert-Daly on Parliament Hill delivering 32,045 names.



# “Unimpaired for Future Generations”?

## National parks face new pressures

BY ALISON WOODLEY

## Do recent decisions to allow new commercial tourism developments in our parks signal a new assault on their sanctity?

The new millennium was a time of great optimism for the future of our national parks. After a decade-long battle against commercial development pressures in our national parks, the tide had turned towards a stronger “nature first” approach to their management. A blue ribbon panel of experts (which included CPAWS’ representatives) had concluded that national park ecosystems were at risk across the country, and the federal government accepted a comprehensive suite of recommendations for how to reverse the decline.

In 2000, the federal government amended the Canada National Parks Act to clarify that ecological integrity was the first priority in park management, and boosted investment in creating new parks and protecting and restoring park ecosystems. Over the next decade, Parks Canada made significant progress, rolling out a science-based ecological integrity monitoring and reporting system across the country, and working to restore park ecosystem health. The agency reintroduced bison and black-footed ferrets to Grasslands National Park; fire to parks where ecosystem health depended on it; and made progress on restoring the Bow Valley wildlife corridor of Banff National Park.

But in recent years, conservationists are noticing a rise in disturbing management decisions that suggest the trend is

reversing. Our concern is that Parks Canada is moving back in time - approving new infrastructure-dependent recreational activities and commercial developments - and shifting priority away from protecting nature.

In February 2012, in the face of enormous public opposition, the federal government announced a decision to allow commercial tour operator Brewster Travel Canada, owned by a US-based multi-national company called VIAD, to build a massive glass-bottomed viewing platform in Jasper National Park at a pull-off along the Icefields Parkway. This project is similar to a controversial project that was built OUTSIDE the Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona, and flies in the face of national park policy that limits recreational activities to those that require minimal infrastructure. The decision was made in spite of the inadequate information about its potential impact on wildlife.

Last year, Parks Canada announced that it would allow large-scale summer use at the Mount Norquay ski hill in Banff. This plan is raising serious concern about the impact that thousands more summer visitors will have on grizzly bears and other wildlife that rely on the area as important summer habitat and a movement corridor within the Bow Valley. The decision is particularly troublesome since it reversed a previous agreement between the ski hill operator and Parks Canada to allow for expanded winter use in return for giving up summer use – because of its potential impact on grizzly bears and other sensitive wildlife that inhabit the area in summer.

The current view off the Icefields Parkway in Jasper that will be marred by the private construction of the Brewster viewing platform.  
Photo: Kelly Sloan

Cyclists below the abandoned ski lifts at Mt. Agassiz in Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba.  
Photo: Richard Magleo





The natural corridors used by grizzlies to move through Alberta's Bow Valley will be threatened as summer use of the Mount Norquay in Banff intensifies.

Photo: Courtesy USFWS

Most recently, Parks Canada announced its intent to amend the Riding Mountain National Park Management Plan and invite proposals from commercial operators to re-develop the long-closed Mount Agassiz Ski Area. This would reverse the management plan's previous commitment to remove the aging infrastructure from the bankrupt ski hill, and restore the area's ecosystem. The current management plan appropriately reflects the requirement to put Ecological Integrity first in park management.

The Canada National Parks Act does not allow new ski areas to be developed in national parks because downhill skiing has significant impacts on park ecosystems that we now recognize as inappropriate in our national parks. With most of the equipment and buildings at the Mount Agassiz hill in need of replacement, and after a decade of ecosystem regeneration at the abandoned hill, re-developing this site would essentially mean developing a new ski area. Even the feasibility study for the project casts serious doubt on its viability, citing an inadequate market, re-development requirements and competition from other ski areas in the region.

So what's behind this troublesome trend? In the past few years, Parks Canada has turned its attention to engaging more Canadians in our national parks. CPAWS shares the goal of encouraging Canadians to connect with nature in order to build a culture of conservation in Canada, but not at the risk of harming the ecological integrity of our parks! While Parks Canada is investing in projects that promote "nature-focused" activities, such as learn-to-camp programs, it is also making a worrying shift towards commercial, pay-for-use activities that focus on infrastructure, not nature, to attract people to parks.

The argument is that we need new attractions in our parks to appeal to more urbanized Canadians who aren't interested in "traditional" park activities. But there is no evidence that this is the kind of activity that Canadians want for their parks. To the contrary, the recent outcry about the Jasper "walkway" reinforces what CPAWS has always understood – that Canadians love their parks as wild places, protected for themselves and their grandchildren. There is no evidence that they want commercial tourism operators to build new infrastructure-focused, theme park-like attractions within the parks.

CPAWS' history of defending our parks runs deep. Our organization was created in 1963 in response to a plea in Parliament from the minister responsible for national parks that Canadians stand up to defend them. We successfully fought off a massive development project at Lake Louise in the early 1970s. We rose up and successfully secured limits to commercial development in the 1990s. And with the help of Canadians across the country, we'll defend our parks again against the latest wave of "back to the future".

*Alison Woodley is CPAWS' National Conservation Director*

## SHARE YOUR VIEWS!

We want to hear from you! Send us a brief letter on this issue. It may appear in the next edition of *Canadian Wilderness*.

Or share your views on-line by posting a comment on this article at [www.cpaws.org](http://www.cpaws.org)



# CPAWS Harkin award winner makes impact at home and abroad

Earlier this year, CPAWS celebrated the career of **Nik Lopoukhine** by presenting him with the 2011 Harkin Award for his lifetime achievement in the field of conservation.

At the age of six, Nik Lopoukhine arrived in Canada in 1951 and settled with his family near the small town of Maniwaki, Québec on the banks of the Gatineau River.

“My brothers and I did not suffer from a nature deficiency disorder,” he says. The forest was at their door, with waterways nearby, and Nik took advantage of it. Experiencing nature in a personal way is what inspired Nik to pursue a career that focused on protecting natural spaces for others. His career proceeded to influence not only Canadian wilderness protection, but conservation around the world.

Early in his career, Nik led the development of the Parks Canada Fire Policy. As a direct result of his efforts, Parks Canada now has one of the best fire management teams in the world. Nik is proud of this accomplishment, stating, “Restoration of fire regimes is critical to Canada’s ecological integrity.”

Nik has served with international organizations who needed the benefit of his expertise and his respect for nature. This year, he is wrapping up eight years of service as chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. His influence in applying solid science in the development of sound conservation policy, and his ability to bring about consensus on matters of ecological integrity has made a permanent impression on the international community.

Reflecting on his career, Nik says “I have become more and more enamoured with Canada. Every time I return from a trip abroad I experience pride and happiness to be home. We are blessed as Canadians and we should not take it for granted.”



Nik Lopoukhine with his Harkin Award.  
Photo: CPAWS Staff

As passionate as Nik is about the progress we’ve made in protecting Canadian wilderness, he is also highly aware of the need to remain vigilant in the face of economic and development pressure.

“As Canadians we are blessed with incredible gifts and as such I implore you to not squander this blessing,” he said movingly in his award acceptance speech. “Canada’s national parks’ mandate of ecological integrity as a primary consideration is a wonderful global example that must not be compromised.”

CPAWS congratulates Nik Lopoukhine for his accomplishments throughout his work. His dedication to conserving nature has impacted how the protection of ecological integrity is approached worldwide. He’s a wonderful example of how remaining committed to an ideal can make a lasting change.



First awarded in 1972, the J.B. Harkin Award honours those who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to the conservation of Canada’s parks and wilderness.

Learn more at [www.cpaws.org/harkin](http://www.cpaws.org/harkin)

# A canoe trip like no other

BY ELLORIE MCKNIGHT

Last April, eight young Canadians and their faithful canine companion Yebo embarked on a five-month canoe odyssey of more than 6,000 kilometres - from Ottawa to Inuvik! They dedicated their voyage to watershed conservation, raising awareness and funds along the way for CPAWS and the Ottawa Riverkeeper. **TranscanEAUda** team member Ellorie McKnight shares some highlights.

It's been a few months now since we returned to our respective homes and the lives we left behind when we embarked on our journey. Yet the memories are still so vivid that it feels like only a few days since we left the North and returned to the city.

Every river, swamp, and lake that we paddled, and each portage that we walked were the source of many memorable events, thoughts, and conversations. The changing seasons, shifting ecosystems, endless days of paddling, and life outdoors all presented unique challenges and rewards. Travelling and living as a group of eight added yet another layer to our expedition.

Together, we experienced some of the most beautiful scenery we'd ever seen, from the rugged and isolated North

Shore of Lake Superior to the massive peaks of the NWT's Mackenzie Mountains, rising white and strong above the distant horizon. In mid-summer on the Churchill River in northern Saskatchewan, we experienced the true definition of the word abundance. Blueberry patches dominated the underbrush and we cooked or dried fresh fish every night. It was as though the land understood our appreciation, granting us access to fresh fruit and protein sources when our barrels contained only grains and dried foods.

On the Churchill River, a lynx appeared on the shore. This wild feline stared at us for nearly twenty minutes, its piercing eyes observing our bewildered expressions. We knew this was a rare occurrence that few others will ever experience. Moments like these strengthened

our connection to the unspoiled wilderness that is so important to protect.

Together, we pushed through the cold of a northern October, our canoes crossing the Arctic Circle on nearly frozen waters. On a gray and snowy day, one of our canoes capsized in the Mackenzie River's Rampart Rapids. We worked together to get the swimmers out of the icy waters, out of their drenched clothes, and into dry sleeping bags until they were warm enough to continue on to the next village. There, villagers welcomed us into their homes to dry our clothes, have coffee, and spend the night. The power and beauty of the Canadian wilderness, as well as the kindness of strangers, never ceased to amaze us.

Not all of the route we travelled was pristine and beautiful. Portaging around the pulp and paper mill in Fort Frances, Ontario, or paddling through the oil sands region of northern Alberta reminded us that civilization hid just behind the untouched shorelines. The ever-growing quest for resources and energy leaves an indelible mark on the landscape.

Despite these reminders, we were amazed to discover that much of this country's wilderness is holding its own against the onslaught of development.





The TranscanEAUda team paddled and portaged more than 6,000km through Canada's wilderness, starting in Ottawa, and ending in Inuvik.

We hope that conservation efforts that protect ecological integrity will allow nature to continue not just to survive, but to truly thrive.

For the duration of our trip, we lived a life of simplicity - a time of wilderness, travel, and companionship. We slept because we were tired. We ate because we were hungry. We were able to ponder because our minds were clear. We grew accustomed to being in such remote and wild places. We didn't want to start taking any of it for granted, so we constantly reminded ourselves of how beautiful, how remote, and how wild the things around us were.

After months of living in harmony with nature, the city feels like a puzzle. Turning on the tap replaces fetching the water from the river. Cooking on the stove eliminates the need to collect wood from the forest to build a fire. Indoor heating and lighting are convenient, but strange, and ceilings and walls block our view of the sky.

Of course, it is nice to return to the company of friends and family, and to indulge in cultural activities found only in urban centres. But I constantly wonder if there is a way in which we can surround ourselves with these desirable things while at the same time living in a way that is compatible with nature. Our voyage inspired me to respect the power and fragility of the wild, to learn its functions and structures and its connection to our basic needs and desires. It opened a whole new level of awareness that will stay with us forever.



The TranscanEAUda team at The Grande Portage. (L to R) Karine Houde, Dalal Hanna, Katya Saulnier-Jutras, Nicolas Desrochers, Xavier Giroux-Bougard, Alexandre Bevington, Louis-Philippe Robillard, Ellorie McKnight  
Photo: Alexandre Bevington

(L to R) Louis-Philippe Robillard and Dalal Hanna paddling across Lake Superior.  
Photo: Alexandre Bevington

Yebo (L) keeps a look out on Georgian Bay while Katya Saulnier-Jutras paddles.  
Photo: Alexandre Bevington



## Yukon's Peel land use plan takes worrying direction

The new government elected in the Yukon last fall appears to have thrown out the recommendations in what was termed the "Final Peel Watershed Land Use Plan", presented last June after seven years of careful study, review and consultation with all stakeholders about the future of this spectacular part of the territory.

In February, with little forewarning, the government introduced a new set of land use planning principles for the Peel watershed that open the door to much greater industrial development in the area than would have been permitted under the previous recommended plan. The Peel watershed is home to four local First Nations, as well as many wildlife species

threatened in other parts of North America, including caribou and grizzlies. It includes the Snake, Wind and Bonnet Plume rivers, waterways that are renowned to paddlers world-wide.

CPAWS and local conservation partners will be continuing to support First Nations in the area, and will be making the case for a strong conservation-first land use plan during the "final round" of public consultations that are now expected in the summer of 2012.

For the latest news on the Peel land use planning process, visit [www.protectpeel.ca](http://www.protectpeel.ca).

- Mike Dehn



Bonnet Plume River in the Yukon.  
Photo: Courtney Milne

## CPAWS - Newfoundland expands bird survey program

After successfully engaging community volunteers in our Adopt-a-Beach and Puffin/Petrel Patrol Programs last summer, CPAWS-NL is happy to now include the Purple Sandpiper as one of the newest species being surveyed along the province's east coast.

The Purple Sandpiper breeds in the Arctic from May to June, and migrates south-east to its wintering grounds from September to November along the rocky, ice-free shores of Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula. They nest along the shores where there is an abundance of algae, periwinkles and molluscs.

Our newest volunteers, the Grade 8 class at Stella Maris School in Trepassey, are happy to be making beach surveys one of their new class projects. We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their hard work and for making these programs successful, educational and fun.

- Suzanne Dooley



Purple Sandpiper.  
Photo: CPAWS Newfoundland

# Big step forward for Québec's northern boreal forest

In February, Premier Jean Charest announced that the Québec government is committed to protecting 20% of the province's northern wilderness by 2020, resulting in almost 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> of new protected areas. This is a gratifying response to a campaign over the past several months by CPAWS-Québec and other conservation organizations calling on supporters to add their voices to the call of "Let's not lose the north".

The premier's announcement is a great step forward, but it's not the end of the journey. Now our task is to ensure that ecologically valuable and sensitive areas are protected under these plans. CPAWS Québec has prioritized the protection of the Magpie and Broadback rivers, Lake Evans, Tursujuq Park, along with many others. Our goal continues to be to protect at least 50% of our province in the long-term. Please visit [www.snapqc.org](http://www.snapqc.org) for more about the amazing wilderness of Québec and how you can help support new protected areas.

- Marie-Ève Allaire



Québec's Magpie River.  
Photo: J. F. Gagnon

## Industrial pressures mount in Northwest Territories

With precious metal and mineral prices at all time highs, the pristine frontier of the Northwest Territories is on the cusp of permanent change. Governments and investors are eyeing the developmental potential of the region, and an unprecedented wave of industrial interest in exploiting our natural resources has begun to fragment the intact boreal forest habitat. The unspoiled watersheds in this area, and the creatures that call it home, are at significant risk.

Through partnerships with Aboriginal governments, residents, environmental organizations and other stakeholders, CPAWS-NWT is deeply engaged in advancing the protection of nearly 88,000 km<sup>2</sup> of undisturbed land within two proposed national parks and five candidate national wildlife areas. The final push to officially establish these seven protected areas has begun. Watch for more information at [cpawsnwt.org](http://cpawsnwt.org) as we seek your voice supporting full protection of these globally important areas.

- Erica Janes

## Nova Scotia government gains ecologically significant lands

Nova Scotia's most threatened wildlife might have a fighting chance at survival after all, as the province continues making historic land purchases for conservation. Earlier this year, the government spent \$25 million to acquire 10,000 hectares of high conservation value lands from forest company Bowater Mersey. The purchase includes sites identified by CPAWS as some of the most ecologically significant properties left in southwestern Nova Scotia, including old growth forests, species-at-risk habitat, and frontage on significant waterways.

Over the past five years, the Nova Scotia government has invested \$165 million to purchase private lands for conservation. Only about 30% of Nova Scotia is publicly-owned, and many of the province's most ecologically significant ecosystems occur on private lands. Historic land purchases such as this one are a positive step in ensuring the preservation ecological integrity. Almost 75,000 hectares of land have been purchased so far, with more to come in the near future.

- Chris Miller



Tufted Puffins on B.C.'s Scott Islands.  
Photo: Sabine Jessen

## B.C.'s Scott Islands marine protection questioned

The rich ocean waters surrounding the Scott Islands off the coast of British Columbia are one of the 12 marine areas CPAWS is calling on the government to protect by December 2012. This is a vital ocean environment where millions of seabirds breed and nest every year, relying on bountiful sea food and nutrient upwelling to feed their chicks.

CPAWS' Oceans Program Manager Sabine Jessen has been participating in the advisory committee that is reviewing the federal government's draft regulations for this proposed National Wildlife Area. She is concerned that the government's rules may not place any limits on industrial activities such as commercial fishing or shipping, and that the boundaries could exclude a significant portion used by sea birds for foraging. Without changes to the government's plans, the Scott Islands could become a "National Wildlife

Area" in name only, with no real protection for the wildlife that rely on it for survival. This could mean potential catastrophe for the millions of seabirds returning to this area every year to breed and nest.

CPAWS has joined with other BC conservation organizations to write to the federal fisheries minister asking him to ensure that the boundaries and rules for the Scott Islands Marine National Wildlife Area respect the recommended standards for marine protected areas by world experts. That includes at a minimum, no-take zones for commercial and recreational fishing. CPAWS is also asking that the government establish shipping lanes within the marine national wildlife area to confine traffic to limited areas. To find out more about our efforts in this region, visit [www.cpawsbc.org](http://www.cpawsbc.org).

## Highway construction threatens Gatineau Park

Since the early 1990s, well over 100 homes and five roads have been built inside Gatineau Park, along with a major grocery store and a fast-food outlet. CPAWS Ottawa Valley is continuing to promote the creation of federal legislation to ensure that the destruction of one of Canada's most beloved and most visited parks finally ends.

Meanwhile, the damage continues to mount. In February, Québec began construction of a 6.5 km four-lane highway extension that will consume at least 88 hectares of land within the park boundaries and forever alter the landscape surrounding the nearby resort village of Wakefield. The road extension also threatens the water quality of thousands of people who rely on the town's freshwater spring. Without the protection afforded to all of Canada's other federally-owned parks under the National Parks Act, Gatineau remains at serious risk of deterioration.

To find out the latest about CPAWS' efforts to protect Gatineau Park, please visit [www.cpaws-ov-vo.org](http://www.cpaws-ov-vo.org).

- John McDonnell



Heavy equipment on site for road building efforts in Gatineau Park.  
Photo: Michael Lait

## A CPAWS supporter with a birds' eye view

Bob Pytel can tell you a thing or two about the boreal forest. Over the years, this nature enthusiast and pilot from Hawkesbury, Ontario has spent a lot of time in some of the most remote regions of northern Québec. At the controls of his Cessna 206 float plane, he's become familiar with diverse landscapes most of us will only ever see on a map – from the last intact forests in the Lac Saint-Jean region to the vast tundra of Nunavik.

Bob obtained his pilot's licence at age 30 and hasn't looked back since. "A float plane is like a magic carpet ride," he says, pointing to the many places he's visited that are still inaccessible by road. "At the same time, many of my flights in recent years have been real eye-openers. You can really see the profound changes under way in the boreal forest, with the massive industrial development." And that's a perspective Bob is keen to share with others.



Patrick Nadeau (right) with Bob Pytel and his Cessna 206.  
Photo: Marie-Ève Allaire

Last summer, Bob invited his American friend Phil for a flight across northern Québec. What Phil saw prompted him to write a letter to the New York Times when he got home – describing the beauty of this boreal landscape and the need to protect it from ill-advised industrial projects.

### A flight is worth a thousand maps

When CPAWS supporter Bob Pytel offered to fly CPAWS Québec staff over the northern Lac Saint-Jean region, Patrick Nadeau and Marie-Ève Allaire jumped on the opportunity. This area of intact boreal forest is well-known to CPAWS Québec as a major "caribou hotspot". It's also the focal point of discussions with industry and First Nations as part of the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA). For Marie-Ève, flying over the region was a powerful reminder of what is already apparent on maps: "Logging operations are fragmenting the last large stands of caribou habitat in the region. We need a caribou plan that will concentrate operations away from these last caribou strongholds."

Bob became a supporter of CPAWS after learning about the organization's work to help protect woodland caribou. His concern for this threatened species comes from first-hand experience - he's had the chance to encounter the animal many times in the boreal forest, and he understands the link between its survival and the protection of its habitat. He is determined that he isn't going to sit idly by while the caribou continues its decline.

In his support for CPAWS' caribou recovery work, last summer Bob generously offered to fly CPAWS Québec staff over a critical sector of woodland caribou habitat, providing them with a new perspective of the areas they're working to protect. His is a unique contribution from a dedicated CPAWS member who truly sees the big picture.

- Patrick Nadeau

## CPAWS Manitoba Executive Director Wins Award

Congratulations to CPAWS Manitoba Executive Director Ron Thiessen who has won this year's "Protecting our Earth Award" from the Manitoba Eco-Network for his "tireless commitment to wilderness protection, relying on dialogue and relationship building with all interested parties

to achieve wilderness protection goals".

Ron was nominated for this award by Chief David Crate of Fisher River Cree Nation for his efforts in establishing the Fisher Bay and Little Limestone Lake provincial parks.

Ron Thiessen speaks at an event at the Manitoba Legislative Building.



# DARE TO BE DEEP



MEC donates \$1 from each Brooks Dry Bag purchased to CPAWS for marine conservation. Add your voice to the DARE TO BE DEEP campaign and you could win great prizes from MEC.



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