

Canadian **WILDERNESS**

A publication of CPAWS • Spring / Summer 2014

let's get
outside

 **CPAWS**
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Special thanks to our 50th Anniversary Celebration sponsors



Photos: Martin Lipman



Last October, CPAWS and our supporters kicked off our 50th Anniversary celebrations with our nation-wide “Week for the Wild” which included a flash fundraiser for endangered species, a special reception for the 2013 J.B. Harkin Award recipients and a fabulous concert featuring musical group *Plants and Animals* at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa. cpaws50.org

GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE

Best Western Victoria Park Suites • Gold Canyon Resources • Canadian Museum of Nature
Nature Nocturne • Tembec • Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC)



IN THIS ISSUE

Let's get outside!

FEATURES

Experiencing Big, Wild Northern Ontario • 8

Turning a boreal wilderness adventure into a Big Wild Challenge

by Frank de Jong

Nature's Defenders • 10

Fighting "nature deficit disorder" by getting kids into the woods

by Jessie Corey

Hold the hotel • 13

Proposed resort development threatens Jasper's iconic Maligne Lake

by Alison Woodley

5 • PRESIDENT'S DESK

Getting outside with the next generation

6 • CONSERVATION WATCH

14 • TRACKS ACROSS CANADA

Pressing forward for conservation

19 • CPAWS PEOPLE

Order of Canada recognition and more

Thanking Greg Rentz for his gift to the land he loved

Greg loved Canada, loved all that it had to offer, but mostly he loved the land itself, the spectacular scenery and natural places, and especially his home province of Manitoba. From the east coast to the west coast and everywhere in between, Greg wanted to experience it all, by foot on hiking trails, or by canoe on the water. His enthusiasm for Canada was expressed in his actions while he was alive, and in a generous legacy gift to CPAWS after his death.

From a young age on family camping trips across the west, Greg developed an appreciation of the great outdoors that flourished throughout his life. "See Canada first" became the vacation motto for Greg and his wife Leslie. Greg always encouraged friends to travel Canada, recounting his own enjoyment exploring his country.

A man with a friendly smile and a camera, Greg was always meeting people from around the world, often wanting him to take their picture. They had come to see Canada's spectacular landscape and would ask if we knew how lucky we were as Canadians. Smiling broadly he'd say, "Yes, of course. There's no place better."



Greg Rentz, 1962 - 2013

"No place better" but still one in need of appreciation and protection. It was his keen interest in protecting this country that led Greg to volunteer as a board member of CPAWS Manitoba, a position he took seriously and enjoyed a lot. It was his respect for the very good work CPAWS is doing and the understanding that there is so much more to be done that led to his legacy gift to CPAWS. He was so pleased that CPAWS played such a big role in the protection of Little Limestone Lake. He looked forward to seeing our new provincial park one day. Greg passed

away in October 2013 so unfortunately that trip won't happen, but his gift will help ensure the lake and surrounding area will flourish long into the future.

As a proud Canadian and keen explorer he would encourage everyone to donate, to participate in protecting our country's natural beauty, and to get out there and experience Canada.

By Greg's wife, Leslie Rentz

For more information about leaving a legacy gift to CPAWS, please contact Vicki DiMillo at vdimillo@cpaws.org

CONTACT US

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CPAWS New Brunswick
506-452-9902
www.cpawsnb.org

CPAWS Nova Scotia
902-446-4155
www.cpawsns.org

CPAWS Newfoundland
709-726-5800
www.cpawsnl.org

CPAWS Yukon
867-393-8080
www.cpawsyukon.org

CPAWS Northwest Territories
867-873-9893
www.cpawsnwt.org



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 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Oliver Kent, President
Cathy Wilkinson, Vice President (ON)
Alex Abboud, Chair, Engagement Committee (AB)
Philippa Lawson, Chair,
Governance Committee (YT)
Marie-Eve Marchand, Chair, Conservation
Committee (AB)
Andre Vallillee, Treasurer (ON)
Vincent Castellucci (QC)
Laura Colella (ON)
Nika Collison (BC)
Julie Davidson (BC)
Tim Gray (ON)
Bob Halfyard (NL)
Nikita Lopoukhine (ON)
Raymond J. Plourde (NS)
Amy Roberts (BC)
Michael Robinson (BC)

TRUSTEES EMERITUS

Stephanie Cairns
Phil Dearden
Gordon Nelson
Al Davidson
Bob Peart
Sherri Watson

EDITORIAL TEAM

Éric Hébert-Daly, National Executive Director
Ellen Adelberg, Director of Communications
Jessie Corey, Communications Coordinator
Janice McLean, Design

EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Alex Abboud
Rick Boychuk
Laura Colella
Bob Halfyard
Patrick Nadeau
Cathy Wilkinson

ISSN 1717-8894. Postmaster:
send Canadian address changes
to CPAWS, 506-250 City Centre Ave,
Ottawa ON K1R 6K7.

Canadian Wilderness is published
twice per year (Spring, Fall) by
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
(charity #10686 5272 RR0001).

© 2014 Canadian Parks
and Wilderness Society.

No part of this publication
may be reproduced without express
permission in writing from CPAWS.

Getting outside with the next generation

OLIVER KENT

How did you first come to explore the outdoors? And how did you share that experience with your own children?

"Get Outside" has become an increasingly important theme for CPAWS – one this issue reflects. If young people aren't outside experiencing nature the way we did growing up, where will tomorrow's activists come from?

My parents moved to Canada from England when my brothers and I were pre-schoolers. True to the stereotype, they were walkers and gardeners. I never saw either of them ride a bike, paddle a canoe, or heft a backpack. However, they wanted their sons to be Canadian and to do the things that Canadian children did.

Swimming in the lake at a rented summer cottage was a lot more exciting than a city pool. Summer camp taught me canoe tripping – at last, a sport where my upper body strength and endurance were assets and my lack of eye-hand coordination didn't matter. As teenagers, they bought us old-style snowshoes, not knowing how few people used them. We broke trails that no one followed for years. A trend-spotting girlfriend persuaded me to buy those new-fangled cross-country skis. Later, I became a runner, a cyclist, and a triathlete of sorts.

My parents opened the door, but the motivation came from within. A need to explore was part of it. So was what I've come to understand as the Joy of Effort.

I'd love to claim that I mentored my daughter, but I think it was she who got me back outside. When she was young, I was at that workaholic stage of life so many of us go through. On a group hike when she was 14, she stunned me when she passed the guide and just kept on going. I decided there wouldn't be many more years when it was cool to do stuff with Dad, so we'd better go big.

We canoed the Nahanni and the Snake, backpacked in Kluane, and cycled Gros Morne and the Cabot Trail. Years later, we climbed Kilimanjaro together. All things I wanted to do, but would I have done them if she hadn't wanted to share the experience? So who was mentoring whom?

Oliver Kent is CPAWS' National Board President.



Oliver Kent and his daughter



Caribou
Photo: Ted Simonett

Worrying prospects for Canada's caribou

In December of 2013, CPAWS and the David Suzuki Foundation published a report assessing whether Canadian provinces and territories are on track for meeting their obligations to protect caribou under the Federal Species At Risk Act (SARA). The report, published a year after the federal government's release of the Boreal Woodland Caribou Recovery Strategy, details the steps being taken to develop and implement action plans for each caribou herd.

The results of the assessment weren't encouraging.

We gave six of the nine provinces and territories that still shelter boreal woodland caribou low grades for their overall performance in conserving these at-risk populations. While every province and territory faces different challenges, some of the recurring problems identified included a lack of initiative to create effective caribou plans, or – where plans exist – limited translation of the plans into action. Only three jurisdictions – Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Northwest Territories – received medium grades for the efforts they made in 2013 to protect caribou. Meanwhile, industrial development in the boreal forest continues, adding increased pressure on the already threatened woodland caribou.

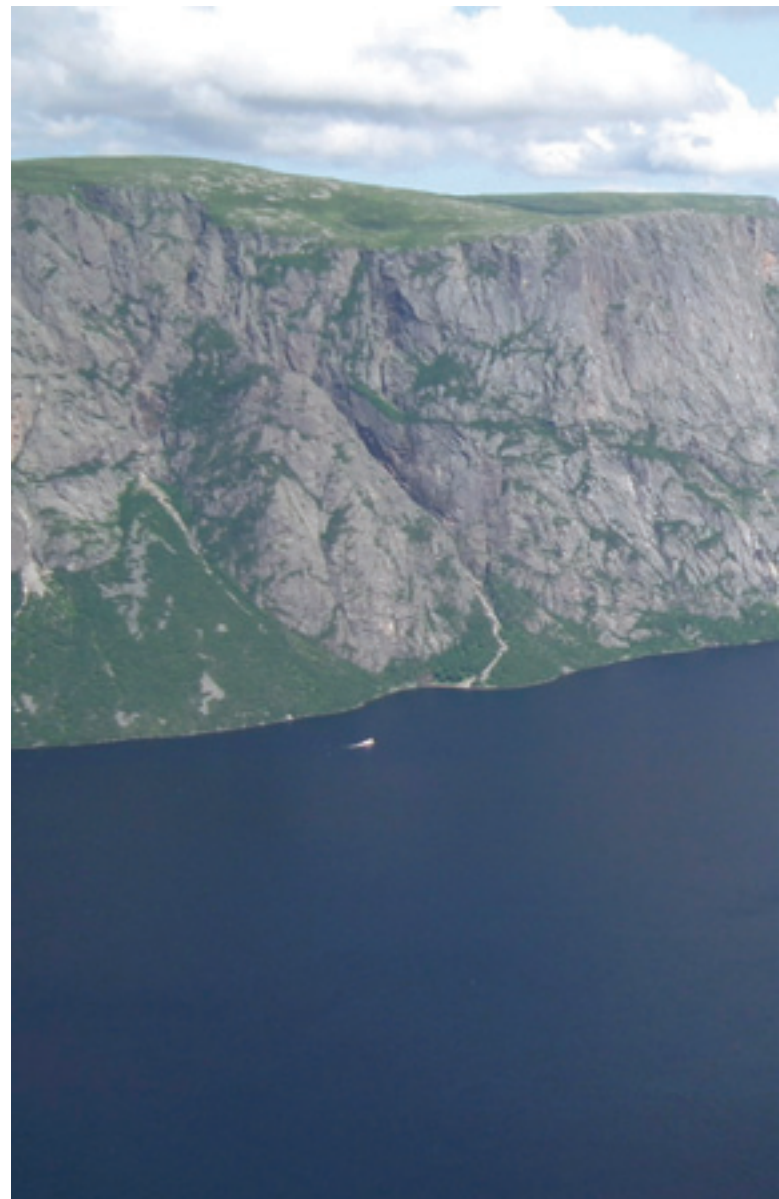
The bottom line is that more than half of boreal woodland caribou populations in Canada are estimated to be at risk of local extinction. CPAWS will be continuing to monitor action by governments in coming years. If we don't act soon, our chances of saving the species and some of the world's most significant intact wilderness areas will be lost forever.

Find out more about caribou and how you can become a caribou supporter at caribouandyou.ca.

Gros Morne National

In the face of a concerted six-month campaign by CPAWS and local community members to protect Gros Morne from oil and gas drilling and fracking activities metres from the park boundary, last December the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board rejected a private company's renewal application for a petroleum exploration license.

This news followed hot on the heels of the provincial government's announcement in early November of a moratorium on all fracking in the province to allow for



Park wins temporary reprieve

more review and public consultation. These two decisions were the result of CPAWS supporters and local communities expressing their serious concerns about the impact of fracking on the west coast of Newfoundland.

Though cause for celebration, neither of these announcements mark the end of our work to protect Gros Morne. CPAWS and our local partners will be re-doubling our efforts in months to come to reach our goal of creating a buffer zone around Gros Morne that will keep the park and surrounding area free of industrialization—permanently.

For the latest campaign updates, visit www.savegrosmorne.ca

Western Brook Pond in Gros Morne National Park Photo: Michael Burzynski



Bringing B.C.'s Ancient Sea of Glass to the surface

Last fall, CPAWS BC teamed up with Nuytco Research, an innovative deep-dive submarine company, to get up close and personal with one of Canada's most extraordinary marine treasures—the ancient glass sponge reefs lying 200 feet below the surface of B.C.'s Strait of Georgia.

Twelve people, including scientists, academics, Juno award-winning singer Dan Mangan, adventure journalist Bruce Kirkby, and lucky contest winner Debbie Heys took part in these special submarine dives. Hundreds of thousands more people read about or watched their adventures in their local media or on *National Geographic Online*.

Beyond getting a clearer picture of the health and condition of these amazing glass sponge reefs that shelter other marine species like rockfish, lingcod, prawns and crabs, our goal for this project was to highlight the need for government action to create a permanent marine protected area – something CPAWS has been calling for since 2001. The federal government announced fishing closures in the area in 2002. Now it's time for the next step.

To help get this deep-sea treasure protected and watch our Sea of Glass expedition films, visit cpawsbc.org/campaigns/sog

Writer Bruce Kirkby and Sabine Jessen, CPAWS Oceans Program Director, preparing for the plunge Photo: CPAWS-BC





Experiencing BIG, WILD Northern Ontario



The sun sets on the Pipestone River in Northern Ontario (top); Team member Sara Gartlan taking charge, near the reserve of Peawanuck on the Winisk River (left)

Last year CPAWS challenged Canadians to turn their summer adventure into a Big Wild Challenge in support of conservation. Dozens responded, raising over \$30,000, but few had a story as dramatic to tell as Frank de Jong, runner-up for the epic trip prize.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY FRANK De JONG

The rivers, wetlands and forests of the Pipestone—Winisk River system in Ontario are a boreal paradise. It's a world-class wilderness in our own backyard, an ecological wonder as yet virtually untouched by humans. In the spring of 2013, five friends and I decided to plan a great adventure and dedicate the trip to wilderness conservation by turning it into a Big Wild Challenge.

In July, we completed a demanding month-long, self-organized, unsupported 800 kilometre canoe trip from Pickle Lake in Northern Ontario all the way to Hudson's Bay. We ran dozens of small rapids, bushwhacked our very own portage routes and camped where no campsites existed. None of us on the team had canoed this very remote river system before, but thanks to a great deal of careful planning, self-discipline and teamwork throughout the trip, we all made it through unscathed.

There were dozens of moments throughout the trip that made it unforgettable. Along the way, we encountered boreal woodland caribou – a threatened species in Canada – black bears, wolf, moose, bald eagles, sturgeon, belugas and innumerable shorebirds. One night, camped out about 200 km south of Hudson's Bay, we even had two very close encounters with a polar bear!

We participated in the Big Wild Challenge to raise awareness of Ontario's threatened ecosystems in light of the Ontario government's recent decisions to exempt industry from complying with the provincial Endangered Species Act for five years. We knew of the impending ecological damage from potential and existing mining development in Ontario's Ring of Fire region that could be exacerbated by the exemptions permitted under the Endangered Species Act.

The Cree we encountered and spoke to on our trip in Wunnumin, Webeque and Peawanuck aren't expecting fair negotiations and believe the proposed mines promise only low-level, temporary jobs. On our part, we felt the mines shouldn't go ahead – that it would be better to compensate northern communities for developing sustainable products, eco-tourism, carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation on their territories.

Our amazing experience has inspired us to support organizations like CPAWS and to spread the word as widely as possible to government, friends, family, and colleagues, that the Hudson's Bay and James Bay lowlands should be preserved in their entirety.

Frank and his teammates, Tove Christensen, Stew Droge, Sara Gartlan, Iva Kinlova, and Jim Stover, were the 2013 Epic Big Wild Challenge runners-up.

Find out more about the MEC Big Wild Challenge and how to participate at bigwildchallenge.ca



Setting up camp on the Pipestone River (top); A fresh catch of pickerel (right); Team member Tove Christensen brings in a huge pike (below)



Magnificent rapids along the Pipestone River in the far reaches of Northern Ontario's wilderness (left)



NATURE'S



DEFENDERS

Fighting “nature deficit disorder” by getting kids into the woods

BY JESSIE COREY

When you’re standing in the heart of Toronto, the country’s largest urban centre, it’s difficult to imagine many opportunities for youth to get outside and overcome the increasing disconnect from nature they’ve experienced over the past few decades.

This is not an issue we can ignore. The Canadian Parks Council recently published a study called *Connecting Canadians with Nature: An investment in the well-being of our citizens*. The less we experience nature, the report notes, the less we’ll care about it and the less likely we are to become stewards of the natural world.

But how can we increase youth’s dose of nature when they live in an increasingly urbanized environment—especially in a place like Toronto?

That’s where CPAWS comes in.

Last summer, with support from The Ontario Trillium Foundation and Mountain Equipment Co-op, CPAWS’ Toronto-based Wildlands League chapter hired energetic teacher’s college grad Liz Brouwer to bring our highly successful *Get Outside* youth engagement program, pioneered in B.C., all the way to Ontario. *Get Outside Ontario* now provides a gateway experience for youth in the Greater Toronto Area to connect with the outdoors, and develop tools and resources that will build their lifelong identity as natural leaders.

A diverse group of more than 30 youth between 14 and 18 years old participated in *Get Outside Ontario* last summer, joining CPAWS Wildlands League staff for a multi-day summit in Rouge National Urban Park just east of the city’s downtown core. Participants learned about nature, local environmental issues, and even how to camp.

“The *Get Outside Ontario* program allowed me to see nature up close, and get all the more passionate about protecting it. Rouge Park is such a rare gift, especially as green spaces become less abundant, and I can only hope that other



Get Outside Ontario participants got up close and personal with nature in the proposed Rouge National Urban Park in the summer of 2013. Photos (facing page): Jayden Rae, (top): Jennifer Berney, (bottom): Jayden Rae



The proposed Rouge National Urban Park is an opportunity to protect and restore an important ecosystem in Canada's largest urban centre, and to provide millions of Canadians, like the 2013 Get Outside Ontario participants, with the chance to directly experience wild nature without leaving the city. Photos: Jennifer Berney

people both young and old will be able to use the park and experience its nature firsthand the way I did," says 2013 program participant Meghan Vidakovic.

Beyond just teaching participants outdoor skills, CPAWS is also helping them make the jump from appreciating nature to becoming environmental stewards. After the summit, participants returned to their communities where they planned and hosted their own outdoor events with the goal of inspiring their peers to get outside.

"There's a fundamental shift that happens when youth move from 'What can I do, I'm just one person?' to having a model they can follow that helps them plan and host these events. It's not an easy thing to do and most of the participants would tell you they were, at times, nervous and frustrated," says Brouwer.

"But they will also tell you it was an incredible experience. One said to me, in the midst of her event, 'I feel like I was just born today!' Whether it was reading stories to young children about trees under a tarp in a downpour, birding, or involving passers-by in Tai Chi in the park, these youth went to extraordinary ends to accomplish something tangible and help foster nature appreciation in others. And, at the end of the day, for youth who want to make a difference, what could be better?" asks Brouwer.

"*Get Outside* provided me with a better understanding of possible 'upstream' stewardship actions, including advocating for policies that ensure protection of vulnerable species, land and sustainable development," says Linda Bui, another program participant.

Experiencing the Rouge has also inspired many of the *Get Outside Ontario* participants to become engaged in CPAWS' campaign to make sure protecting nature remains a top priority when responsibility for managing the park is officially handed over to Parks Canada.

Programs like *Get Outside* are one small piece of the puzzle in fighting nature deficit disorder, particularly among youth. According to the Parks Council, indoor and sedentary lifestyles are increasingly replacing active, outdoor living, and our overall access to nature—particularly in cities like Toronto—is on the decline.

The good news, however, is that establishing the Rouge National Urban Park in Toronto will provide easy access to nature for millions of city-dwellers, and having a program like *Get Outside* is providing a unique opportunity for local youth to actively engage in nature-based learning and leadership training.

Find out more at getoutsideon.ca and lovetherouge.ca

Jessie Corey is CPAWS' National Communications Coordinator



HOLD THE HOTEL

Proposed resort development threatens Jasper's iconic Maligne Lake

BY ALISON WOODLEY

Following a worrisome shift towards increased commercial development in Canada's Rocky Mountain national parks — witness the massive pay-for-use concrete and glass viewing platform about to open along the Icefields Parkway in Jasper — CPAWS' latest concern is a proposed new hotel at Maligne Lake (above), one of the most iconic and photographed sites in the Rockies.

If approved, this project would contravene Parks Canada's policy prohibiting new commercial accommodations outside park townsites, which is designed specifically to control development and protect wildlife. Granting an exception to the rules for this proposed resort at Maligne Lake would open the door to more commercial development in all our Rocky Mountain National Parks, and put Jasper's grizzly bears and woodland caribou at greater risk.

Caribou are barely hanging on in the Maligne Valley. With this herd reduced to only five animals — a decline of over 90% in the last 15 years — they need less development and human use in their habitat, not more. Overnight accommodation at Maligne Lake would mean more traffic on the access road during critical evening and early morning hours when wildlife is most active. Losing even one of these few remaining caribou on the road would be a catastrophe for the herd.

CPAWS holds firm that protecting the ecological integrity of our national parks must be management's first priority, and that this includes keeping visitor use within the limits of what nature can sustain. In the case of Maligne this means saying no to overnight accommodation.

Find out more at www.cpaws.org

Alison Woodley is CPAWS' National Director, Parks Program



Calgary students learn about local nature
Photo: Jennifer Cascaini

In Southern Alberta, we prescribe getting outside!

You've probably noticed that when you spend time outside you just feel better. It's more than just a feeling. A growing body of research is linking nature's effects to our physical, social and mental/spiritual health.

In North America today however, 8 out of every 10 people live in an urban environment and 90% of people's time is spent indoors. More than ever, we need to get outside.

Since 1997, CPAWS Southern Alberta has been working to get youth outside and connected with nature through our educational hiking programs. The programs take students ages 7-18 to local natural areas to experience wilderness and teach about conservation issues linking to curriculum. Over the years, their teachers and leaders have seen the impact of getting youth outside and have experienced how students light up and become engaged in a wilderness setting.

Whether hiking or reading a book by the river, spending time in nature is good for us. We prescribe getting outside!

- Anne Marie Syslak, CPAWS Southern Alberta

Looking out for Algonquin Park's long-term health

There are over 300 private cottages with time-limited lease rights in Ontario's iconic Algonquin Park. As the end of these leases comes near, three recently-released, government-commissioned, scientific and economic studies show that the cottages are contributing cumulatively to the pressures on the park's ecosystems. According to the studies, the effects of the cottages "represent an additional challenge to the maintenance and restoration of ecological integrity of the park as defined in the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006*".

So what's next? From a big picture standpoint, a scientific assessment is needed of all uses in the park, along with a prioritized action list on how to lessen the impacts and remove the uses that are incompatible with maintaining and improving ecological integrity. This would mean focusing on the biggest ecological impacts first – putting logging and many roads at the front of the line for phase-out activities. However, the research indicates that privately held cottages will eventually have to go as well to improve the ecological integrity of the lakes in the park.

Visit wildlandsleague.org for more information

- Dave Pearce, CPAWS Wildlands League



Algonquin Park
Photo: Nadine Wagner

Taking it outside in the nation's capital

To many, Ottawa symbolizes too much time and hot air expended within one famous building. But CPAWS' local chapter offers an antidote. In the last year, we've ramped up our efforts to get people outside in the Ottawa Valley. Our goal is to nurture nature appreciation and leadership in our community, with a special focus on younger generations.

In just over a year since launching a new outdoor education initiative, we've partnered with 14 elementary schools and local outdoor education facilities to connect people with nature. We've led over 25 educational nature hikes, primarily for Grades 1 through 6 youth, through some of our favourite spots like Gatineau Park, the MacSkimming Outdoor Education

Centre, Mud Lake, Stony Swamp, and the Mer Bleue bog. Schools are particularly interested in our program, as we offer curriculum based ecological education tours. We're working hard to spread the word about this program and are excited to keep this movement going in the Ottawa Valley!

- John McDonnell, CPAWS Ottawa Valley

From the city to nature with B.C.'s Wild Ambassadors

On a crisp fall day in 2013, a group of enthusiastic volunteers set out to catalogue the marine life of the coastline in Porteau Cove Provincial Park, near Vancouver. Led by CPAWS-BC volunteer Kate, the intrepid explorers got a sneak peek into marine biology, learned about intertidal ecosystems and spent the morning soaking up the natural beauty of the park. As a recent graduate of the University of British Columbia, Kate organized the event as part of CPAWS-BC's Wild Ambassador volunteer program that launched a year ago.

This exciting new program trains volunteers to become ambassadors for conservation and foster awareness and appreciation for B.C. parks. Generously supported by funding from the BC Parks Enhancement Fund, CPAWS' Wild Ambassadors program provides volunteers with tools to host events in B.C. parks that raise awareness about the ecological importance of parks and promote active outdoor living.

Diversity is a core component of Wild Ambassadors. The program aims to make parks and outdoor recreation accessible to audiences who may not have had previous exposure to nature. Wild Ambassadors has attracted volunteers who are interested in connecting groups such as trans-gendered youth, new Canadians, and urban-dwellers to nature in a meaningful way.

If you know someone who is interested in becoming a Wild Ambassador, visit www.cpawsbc.org

- Jackie Peat, CPAWS British Columbia



CPAWS-BC Wild Ambassador Kate leads Porteau Cove Bioblitz volunteers Photo: CPAWS-BC

Huge new polar bear park in Manitoba on horizon

Manitoba's breathtaking Hudson's Bay region combines tundra, wetland and subarctic forest. It's peppered with sandy moraine ridges and glacial carved rock faces and fringed with rocky beaches on the coast. CPAWS Manitoba is actively engaging Manitobans to voice their views about the recent provincial government proposal for large-scale protection in this region through the creation of a park.

With support of local communities and individuals from across Manitoba, the new park could result in protection of over 29,000 km² of largely intact lands between the Churchill River and the Ontario border, representing nearly 4.5% of Manitoba! It would incorporate recently-discovered concentrations of polar bear denning areas near the Ontario border as well as massive portions of North America's largest wetland, one of earth's largest peat forming ecosystems, and significant habitats for dozens of species. Find out more at cpawsmb.org

- Ron Thiessen, CPAWS Manitoba



Polar bear cubs
Photo: Ron Thiessen

Wilderness stewards wanted in Newfoundland and Labrador



CPAWS-NL Protected Area Steward, Aaron O'Brien, in the Bay du Nord Wilderness Reserve
Photo: CPAWS-NL

As part of our Protected Area Stewards program, CPAWS-NL has been recruiting volunteers from across the province to visit and monitor activities within protected areas. The program began in Newfoundland and Labrador a decade ago and some of our dedicated stewards are still to this day monitoring specific areas to ensure the integrity of our protected areas is retained for future generations.

Now more than ever, there is a growing need to have regular site monitoring of existing protected areas in the province. We're reaching out to our communities and to those who care about the environment and the survival of creatures of all kinds in attempt to recruit more Protected Area Stewards who are willing to help develop a world-class network of protected areas, have a great outdoor experience, and enhance their own lives with a legacy they can be proud of.

Find out more: www.cpawsnl.org

- Tanya Edwards, CPAWS-NL



The mighty Magpie River
Photo: Boreal River

The Magpie River: Jewel of Quebec's North Shore

Located in the heart of the province's northern Boreal wilderness, the Magpie River in Quebec is one of the top 10 whitewater destinations in the world. The Magpie is also one of the last great wild rivers in Quebec, yet it remains unprotected from the threat of potential hydroelectric developments.

CPAWS Quebec is working to secure permanent protection for the Magpie by including it in an adjacent proposed biodiversity reserve, which has been under interim protection since 2003. Additionally, we're working to expand the boundaries of this reserve to include all of the whitewater sections of the Magpie River (235 km) and important parts of its watershed.

In the summer of 2013, we published a study that assessed the global potential of the Magpie, comparing it to other world-class whitewater rivers like the Nahanni and the Colorado. The study's results placed the Magpie in the top tier of whitewater destinations in North America. This river has a strong potential for tourism that could offer significant benefit to the region.

To read more about the study and sign the petition to help save the Magpie, visit savethemagpie.org

- Patrick Nadeau, CPAWS Québec

More wilderness protection coming to Nova Scotia

A finalized plan by the Government of Nova Scotia will protect a quarter million more hectares of the province's high-conservation value wilderness, from the rich floodplain forests of the St. Mary's River, to significant large intact forests in the Cape Breton highlands, to important species at risk habitat in southwestern Nova Scotia, and long stretches of wilderness coastline along the Eastern Shore. The areas will be protected by creating dozens of new parks and protected areas, and expanding many others.

Once the plan is fully implemented, Nova Scotia will rise to second in Canada for the total percentage of land protected. This feat is even more impressive, considering many of the properties identified for conservation needed to be acquired, since only about a third of the province is publicly-owned.

CPAWS played a key role in choosing the conservation sites in Nova Scotia, serving on a small team of experts who designed the expanded system of protected areas. Moving forward, more work will be required for the province to achieve the international target of 17% land protection, but this is a big step in the right direction.

- Chris Miller, CPAWS Nova Scotia



Old growth forest along the St. Mary's River
Photo: Andrew Chow

Getting outside in New Brunswick parks

For a second year, the CPAWS New Brunswick chapter is looking forward to partnering with NB Parks and other groups in *Get Outside! NB*.

CPAWS-NB Executive Director Roberta Clowater helped train *Get Outside! NB* students at a leadership summit last summer in Mount Carleton Provincial Park, then visited several Parks Natural Leader students at the provincial parks where they were based to provide advice and support for their nature-focused events and activities.

Paul Hutchinson, student and Parks Natural Leader at Sugarloaf Provincial Park, summed up his time: "It's been a great experience to share my park with people coming into the area, to help them connect with it and protect it. We're sitting on treasure here, and this has been a reconnection to home for me."

Visit www.cpawnsb.org to find out more about *Get Outside! NB* events at our parks this summer!

- Roberta Clowater, CPAWS New Brunswick



Get Outside! NB participants gather at Mount Carleton Provincial Park with Roberta Clowater, 4th from left. Photo: Steve Reid/CPAWS NB

Yukon's Peel watershed battle heads to court

The decision was not taken lightly, but after years of diplomatic effort, CPAWS and others are going to court in our fight to protect the Yukon's Peel River Watershed – one of the world's last remaining large-scale wilderness watersheds.

Despite seven years of consultation-driven land-use planning and widespread public support for Peel protection, the territorial government recently announced a unilaterally-developed plan to open this vast web of pristine waterways, wetlands and wildlife to mining, oil and gas, and roads – a decision that has kicked off what promises to be a precedent-setting legal battle.

Together with two affected First Nations and the Yukon Conservation Society and represented by renowned aboriginal rights lawyer Thomas Berger, CPAWS Yukon filed a case in the Yukon Supreme Court on January 27th, 2014. We are asking the Court to declare that the Peel Commission's work cannot be discarded and that its Final Recommended Plan should be upheld.

Find out more at cpawsyukon.org

- Gill Cracknell, CPAWS Yukon



Yukon residents rally to save the Peel
Photo: Tyler Kuhn



Burrowing Owl Estate Winery raises a glass to national park in the South Okanagan-Similkameen

Jim and Midge Wyse bought a vineyard in the heart of the Okanagan back in the 1990s strictly as a business move. Little did they know that naming their winery after a neighboring owl restoration site would be the start of a lifetime commitment to advancing the preservation of the threatened species.

The Wyses and their "Burrowing Owl Estate Winery" are helping restore its namesake populations in the South Okanagan through the Burrowing Owl Conservation Society. Jim and Midge's commitment to owls and their habitat also takes expression in their vocal support for a national park in the South Okanagan-Similkameen.

The Burrowing Owl Winery has played a vital role in raising awareness of the urgent need for a park and the tremendous economic benefits that it would bring to the region. For as much as Jim and Midge are owl lovers, they are also savvy business people who know how the increase in tourism from the park will benefit their winery. The Wyses have donated time and their delicious product to CPAWS over the years. Leading by example, Burrowing Owl Winery's support for the proposed national park has also provided a space for other local businesses to sign on in favour of the park.

Visit www.bovwine.ca to learn more about Burrowing Owl Estate Winery and its environmental philosophy.

For updates on the proposed national park in the South Okanagan-Similkameen visit cpawsbcc.org



Photo: Martin Lipman

Kudos to CPAWS' latest J.B. Harkin Award recipients

Last fall CPAWS presented the prestigious J.B. Harkin Award to three remarkable people in recognition of their lifetime of dedication to conservation and wilderness protection.

Harvey Locke (left), former CPAWS national president, passionate defender of Banff National Park and the Nahanni, and founder of the Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative received the award for his visionary national work on large landscape conservation.

Ric Careless (centre), was awarded the Harkin medal for his regional work in British Columbia, where for four decades he has helped to expand and protect the province's parks system, including such notable places as Tatshenshini-Alsek and the Stikine River.

John Marsh (right), Professor Emeritus at Trent University and lifelong member of CPAWS, also received a medal for his more than 50 years of research and teaching on conserving Canada's wilderness, and his strong contribution to CPAWS in its early decades as president and board member.



Juri Peepre receives Order of Canada

Congratulations to **Juri Peepre**, former national CPAWS Board president and Yukon chapter executive director, who was recently named to the Order of Canada in recognition for his outstanding achievements in conservation. Among his many accomplishments, Peepre, now living in southern British Columbia, has helped bring the case for conserving Yukon's spectacular Peel River watershed to attention through tireless advocacy.

2014 AGM NOTICE

The CPAWS Annual General Meeting will be held via conference call at 8:00 PM (ET) on September 29, 2014.

For more information, please contact us at info@cpaws.org or 1-800-333-9453

 **CPAWS**
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY



Photo: David Christie

Farewell to Mary Majka: a true force for nature

We were sad to learn of **Mary Majka's** passing at age 90 in February 2014. One of New Brunswick's – and Canada's – most dedicated voices for nature, Majka was an Order of Canada recipient and longstanding supporter and former national trustee of CPAWS who inspired many around her to love and nourish our natural world.



We have a challenge for you.

© Matt Gunn, Elnho Valley, BC

MEC **BIG WILD**
CHALLENGE

**Get out of your comfort zone and into the wild.
Nature is the reward.**

This summer, join thousands of other Canadians participating in the MEC Big Wild Challenge. These events raise funds for CPAWS to protect Canada's at-risk wilderness.

Join a fun organized event or create your own – whatever inspires you to get into the wild.

Find out how at www.bigwildchallenge.org