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# park news

The Journal of  
The National and  
Provincial Parks  
Association of Canada

## HERITAGE RIVERS



### **The National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada**

is a private, educational, non-profit organization incorporated under Federal Charter in 1963 for the purpose of promoting the benefits and ensuring the protection of our great National and Provincial Parks, so that Canadians, as well as visitors to this country, may enjoy them in an unimpaired state for all time.

Specifically, its aims and objectives are:

- **To promote the use and management of National and Provincial Parks in a manner that will contribute to the education, inspiration and well-being of the general public;**
- **to uphold the highest standards of these samples of our heritage and promote by all appropriate means the widest understanding of their purposes;**
- **to co-operate with governmental agencies and with private, non-profit charitable, educational and scientific organizations in protecting the integrity of National and Provincial Parks, historic sites and nature reserves, and to seek the support of such organizations and of all other interested persons in furthering these objectives;**
- **to institute and encourage research into all matters pertaining to fulfillment of the foregoing aims.**

The Association depends for support upon its members and upon grants from private and corporate donors. Membership classes are: Student — 1 year \$17, 2 years \$30; Active/Institutional — 1 year \$23, 2 years \$40; Husband/Wife — 1 year \$28, 2 years \$50; Life — \$500. Other contributions and bequests are also needed. Donations to the Association in excess of the basic \$23 Active/Institutional membership fee, which covers the cost of *Park News*, are an allowable deduction for income tax purposes.

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South Nahanni River CREDIT: PARKS CANADA

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The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, *PARK NEWS* or the N.P.P.A.C.

## EDITORIAL

The world's demand for fresh water is insatiable. To have a sufficient supply for even basic requirements is a problem of crisis proportions in many countries. It would seem that with a relatively small population and apparently abundant supplies this is not an issue in Canada. Indeed, so bountiful does the amount seem with the numerous large lakes, innumerable small ones, mighty rivers, the St. Lawrence, Fraser and McKenzie, and sparkling streams, it would appear that there is no real urgency to conserve and protect our water system. After all, there seems to be more than enough for everyone for all uses, so why get alarmed?

The alarm bells begin to sound when we find that more and more demands are being placed on the water system. The increase in "need" for cooling and processing water, hydro-electric sites, and irrigation not only increases pressure on southern lakes and rivers but also reaches further and further into the hitherto pristine wilderness. In the settled areas the quality of waterways can decline through effluent discharge, acid rain, and patent neglect. Other activities not directly related to water can, when care is not exercised, such as poor logging practices, careless tailings maintenance, fertilizer and pesticide application, be as great

a problem as the major issues. Many lakes surrounded by vacation cottages where generations have learned to swim and fish are now virtually dead. Numerous rivers are now placid, limpid sheets of man-made lakes. An important, basic element of the environment which has contributed to the evolution of our national psyche has been radically changed. Canadians pursue a variety of goals in life so that the desire for healthy lakes, untampered rivers, and sparkling waterfalls compete with employment, reliable energy supplies, transportation, and settlement.

Traditionally, the recreation experience and aesthetic value of water has been low on the list of priorities. Yet there is a real need to recognize that it is there and plays an important part in the meaning to people of their land, and cultural heritage. Ultimately, the onus falls on government to determine how this resource is both used and protected. The truth of the matter is that with each development the marginal value of the remaining undeveloped rivers and lakes and associated ecological systems increases substantially. This was the message forcibly argued in the 1960's in the United States by opponents to expansion in dam construction. The awakening to the dangers of over-development and the diminishing

national legacy led to the Heritage Rivers scheme, an important conservation idea whose value was quickly recognized in this country.

The megaproject mentality is not quite as rampant as during the previous decades due to a decrease in energy demand, high interest rates, and, not least of all, greater awareness of aesthetic values and attention to the environmental impacts of development. But as the last issue of this journal showed, conservationists cannot be complacent. It is now recognized that unbridled development can cause more problems than it is meant to solve. This is not to put a brake on all development because this would be incompatible with the maintenance of the quality of life we enjoy in this country. It does mean that it falls upon both levels of government who oversee and protect this heritage resource to ensure that the complete range and values of our rivers and lakes are recognized. Not an easy task!

That initiative in protecting and restoring rivers is not lacking is shown in the surge in legislation related to water systems and the greater factual knowledge of them collected by governmental agencies and universities during the last two decades. Protecting and conserving *undeveloped* rivers has had a more difficult gestation. In 1971, Parks Canada embarked on a Wild River Survey which, over a three-year period, saw over 16,000 kilometres of rivers studied for their natural and scenic qualities and recreation potential, culminating in the identification of ten rivers especially significant in merit. The program eventually ran up against the difficult jurisdictional problems that exist where national proposals are formulated. The Canadian Heritage Rivers System is an attempt to avoid the difficulties of the earlier plan. It represents therefore an important benchmark both in the real appreciation of the multi-purpose value of river systems, recognizing that for particular rivers, scientific, aesthetic and recreation values can outweigh others, and in intergovernmental co-operation in conservation.

This issue of *Park News*, the first to originate from Victoria, is a progress report on the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, detailing the goals and objectives of the program and illustrating how the idea is unfolding and being implemented across the country. Progress is understandably uneven in view of the size of the task and lack of participation by some provinces. Articles focus on how the CHRS works, and on details of nominated rivers and other rivers which have particular appeal and perhaps deserve some recognition. The international significance of the program is illustrated by the news of progress south of the border and the struggle to preserve wilderness and rivers in Australia. Let us hope that the spirit and expectation expressed in this issue will encourage those not yet participating to join so that the system becomes a truly national reality.



# The Canadian Heritage Rivers System

The idea of a national system of protected rivers has emerged over the last two decades as part of a growing concern to ensure that Canadian Rivers are managed wisely. Protected from industrial development, rivers in such a system would be set aside and managed for recreational use and appreciation of their natural and historical heritage. In response to this concern, at a national level, Parks Canada undertook a series of "Wild River Surveys" in the early 1970's. The surveys were aimed at identifying the characteristics of Canada's more remote and undeveloped rivers for possible inclusion in some future protected river system. Similarly, a number of provincial governments began to prepare policies and amendments to Parks Acts to allow for the eventual establishment of river parks. With the arrival of difficult economic conditions in the mid-seventies, however, most park agencies were forced to put new types of initiatives aside in favour of completing existing terrestrial park systems.

In light of the economic climate and the ever-present need for the protection of major heritage rivers in Canada, the Honourable Hugh Faulkner, the federal Minister of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in 1978, suggested that federal, provincial, and territorial

park's ministers work together to prepare a joint proposal for a Canadian National Heritage Rivers System. Accordingly, a task force of officials representing all provincial and territorial governments was set up early in 1979, with Parks Canada serving as co-ordinator. Discussions ended in July, 1981 with the presentation of a task force proposal for a Canadian Heritage Rivers System to the Honourable John Roberts, the federal Minister of the Environment. Supportive of the proposal, Mr. Roberts invited the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and provincial and territorial parks' ministers to participate in establishing the System. By 1983, there was a majority agreement by the provinces and territories on the recommendations of the task force.

Closely based on the task force proposal, a set of objectives, principles and procedures was then drawn up to guide the governments wishing to participate in the establishment and operation of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS). On January 18 of this year, the governments of Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Yukon, and Northwest Territories simultaneously announced their participation in the System. Nova Scotia joined in May.

The following text briefly describes the

objectives, principles and procedures of the CHRS.

## Objectives of the System

CHRS objectives are to give national recognition to the "important" Canadian rivers, to ensure future management of these rivers in ways that their natural and human heritage is conserved and interpreted, and to realize the opportunities they possess for recreation and heritage appreciation.

## Operating Principles

The System will be operated according to a number of basic principles:

- It will be co-operative in that federal, provincial, and territorial governments retain their traditional jurisdictional powers, including ownership of land, the choice to nominate a river to the System and the right to continue to operate and manage designated rivers in accordance with the objectives of the System;
- Parks Canada will encourage public awareness of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System and will also financially assist governments in carrying out studies and plans related to the nomination and management of rivers;
- Each river to be included within the System will be jointly designated, upon the advice of the Board, by the minister responsible for Parks Canada and the responsible minister from the government having jurisdiction over the river;
- All designated rivers will be called "Canadian Heritage Rivers." However, three values are recognized in the selection of rivers, which reflect the System's objectives:
  - natural heritage of outstanding Canadian value,
  - human heritage of outstanding Canadian value,
  - recreational opportunities of outstanding Canadian value;

A river which is outstanding for any one value may qualify for designation;

- The management of Canadian Heritage Rivers will address the conservation and interpretation of natural and human heritage, and the realization of recreational opportunities in keeping with the objectives of the System;
- When the nomination is being considered of the Canadian portion of a river which forms an international boundary, or flows through both Canada and the United States, appropriate consultations with U.S. agencies will take place.

## The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board

The Canadian Heritage River Board has a number of primary duties including:

- To develop a public awareness of the System;
- To encourage the nomination of rivers to the System;
- To recommend designation of nominated rivers which in the opinion of the

Board meet the selection guidelines for the System;

- To monitor the status of Canadian Heritage Rivers to determine if their heritage values are being maintained in keeping with the selection guidelines;
- To recommend removal from the System of any river which no longer meets the selection guidelines.

The Board consists of one representative appointed by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada, one by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and one by each of the participating provincial and territorial governments. Members are presently senior members of government staff.

Each participating government is accorded one vote only. The federal vote is exercised by Parks Canada—in consultation with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development on matters related to rivers in the territories.

A Chairperson is elected annually by vote from among members of the Board, he or she is responsible for organizing and chairing Board meetings, directing the operation of a secretariat and promoting public awareness of the CHRS.

At the inaugural meeting of the Board in Ottawa, on January 19, 1984, R. L. Carter, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Department of Natural Resources, was elected Chairman. The other members named to the Board were:

A. Appleby, Director, Parks and Lands Branch, Saskatchewan Department of Parks and Renewable Resources.

A. T. Davidson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Parks Canada.

B. Diamond, Director, Parks and Recreation Division, Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forests.

A. Hodgson, Chief, Land Planning Branch, Yukon Department of Renewable Resources.

L. Horn, Assistant Deputy Minister, Economic Development and Tourism, Northwest Territories Department of Development and Tourism.

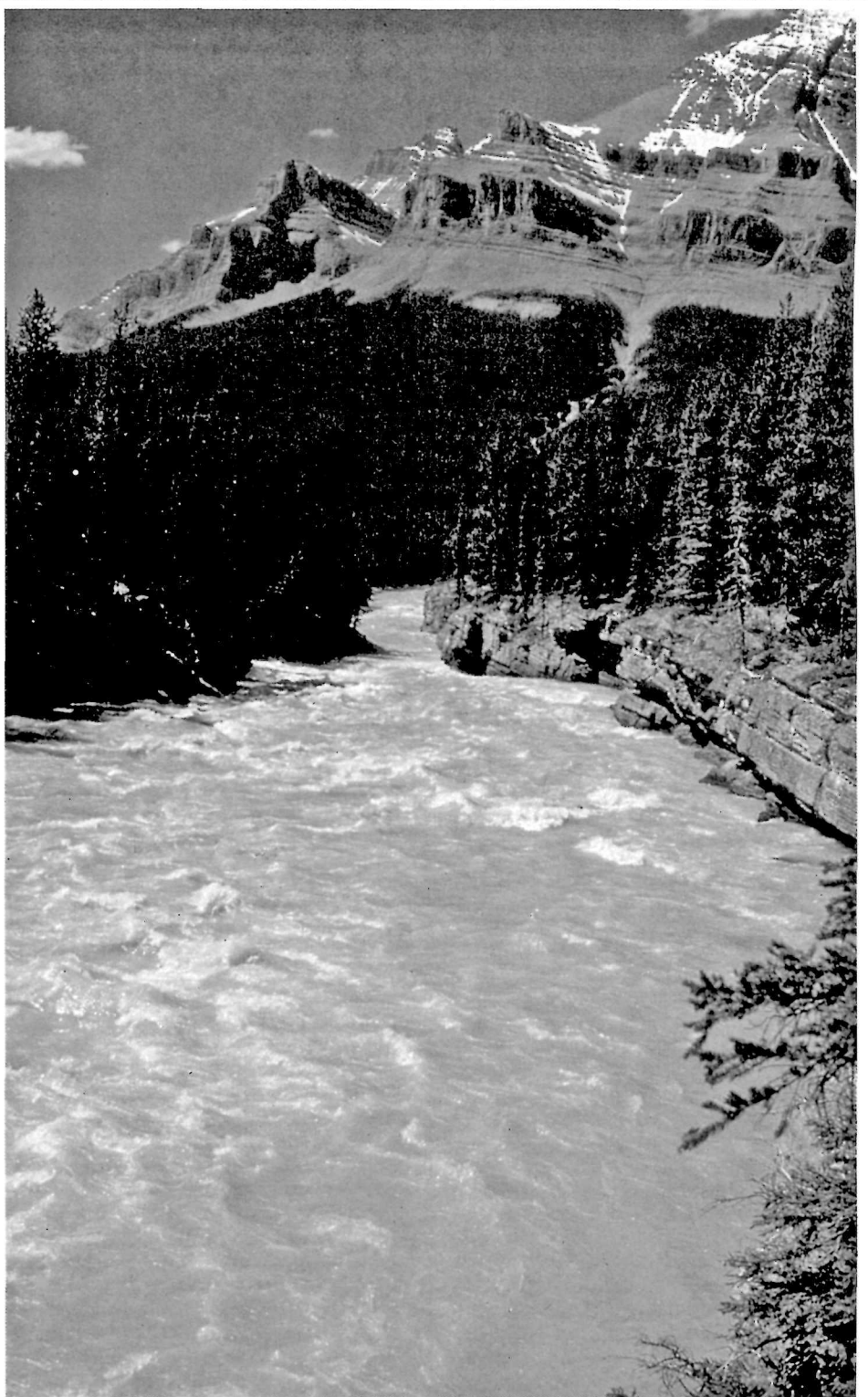
D. G. Hustins, Director, Parks Division, Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

A. H. Jones, Director, Northern Renewable Resources Directorate, Northern Affairs Programs, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

N. Richards, Director, Parks and Recreation Areas Branch, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

D. Skaling, Deputy Minister, New Brunswick Department of Tourism.

A secretariat has been set up within Parks Canada to serve the administrative needs of the Board and to assist in promoting public awareness of the System. The secretary and assistant secretary are Parks Canada employees who receive general direction from the Board through the chairperson. Parks Canada also provides support services required by the secretariat.



North Saskatchewan River

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### Process for the Designation of Canadian Heritage Rivers

The designation of a Canadian Heritage River follows several steps:

- Federal, provincial, or territorial agencies carry out research to identify and assess the significance of the natural, human, and recreational resources of a river;
- Federal, provincial, or territorial agencies nominate the river through submission to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board of a completed nomination form;

- The Board reviews the nomination according to the "Guidelines for the Selection of Canadian Heritage Rivers." It then recommends to the Minister responsible for Parks Canada and to the minister of the nominating agency, whether the nomination should be accepted.
- A river whose nomination is accepted by both ministers and for which a management plan is lodged at the time of nomina-

tion will be jointly designated by the ministers as a Canadian Heritage River;

- A river whose nomination is accepted by the ministers but for which a management plan has not yet been lodged, becomes a "Candidate" Canadian Heritage River, pending receipt of a management plan within three years.

#### **Selection Guidelines**

Canadian Heritage Rivers must be of outstanding Canadian heritage value. This value is attained when it is determined that a nominated river is an outstanding representative of, or unique in, a province or territory. By the inclusion of such rivers in a single coast-to-coast system, they become representative of Canada's river heritage as a whole, thus reflecting a "Canadian value."

The value of Canadian Heritage Rivers is determined according to three sets of "heritage value guidelines": natural, human, and recreational. A nominated river may be included in the System if it meets one or more of the heritage value guidelines, as well as a set of "Integrity Guidelines." These guidelines are quoted below.

#### **Natural Heritage Value Guidelines**

Outstanding Canadian natural heritage value is recognized when a river environment meets one or more of the following guidelines:

- Is an outstanding example of river environments as they are affected by the major stages and processes in the earth's evolutionary history which are represented in Canada. This would include rivers which best represent the major periods of geological time in which the surface of the earth underwent major changes and stream modification;
- Is an outstanding representation of significant ongoing fluvial, geomorphological, and biological processes. As distinct from the periods of the earth's development this focuses upon ongoing processes in the evolution and form of the river and its associated plant and animal communities;
- Contains along its course, unique, rare, or outstanding examples of natural phenomena, formations or features, or areas of exceptional natural beauty;
- Contains along its course, habitats of rare or endangered species of plants and animals. This would also include areas where outstanding concentrations of plants and animals of Canadian interest and significance are found.

#### **Human Heritage Value Guidelines**

Outstanding human heritage value is recognized when a river environment meets one or more of the following guidelines:

- Is of outstanding importance owing to its influence, over a period of time, on the historical development of Canada through a major impact upon the region in which it is located or beyond. This would include its role in such significant historical

themes as native people, settlement patterns and transportation;

- Is strongly associated with persons, events, movements, achievements, ideas, or beliefs of Canadian significance;
- Contains historical or archaeological structures, works or sites which are unique, rare, or of great antiquity;
- Contains outstanding examples or concentrations of historical or archaeological structures, works or sites which are representative of major themes in Canadian history.

In every case consideration will be given to the state of preservation of the river environment relative to its visual appearance during the historic period in which the waterway is considered to be of outstanding importance.

#### **Recreational Value Guidelines**

Recognizing the man-land relationship essential to recreation, outstanding recreational value is recognized when a river environment meets the following general guidelines:

- Possesses an appropriate combination of recreational opportunities and related natural values which together provide a capability for an outstanding recreational experience. Recreational opportunities include such activities as boating, hiking, swimming, camping, wildlife viewing, and human heritage appreciation. Natural values include natural visual aesthetics, that is, diversity and quality of scenic beauty and physical essentials, such as sufficient flow, navigability, rapids, accessibility, and suitable shoreline;
- Be capable of supporting recreational uses without significant loss of or impact on its natural, historical, or aesthetic values.

#### **Integrity Guidelines**

In addition to the "Heritage Value Guidelines," a river and its immediate environment must meet "Integrity Guidelines" for designation to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System:

- They should be of sufficient size and contain all or most of the key interrelated and interdependent elements\* to demonstrate the key aspect of the processes, features, activities or other phenomena which give the river its outstanding value;
- They should contain those ecosystem components required for the continuity of the species, features, or objects to be protected;
- The quality of the water should be such as to provide for the continuity and/or improvement of the resources upon which "value" to the system has been determined.

#### **Management of Canadian Heritage Rivers**

As already noted, before a river can be designated to the CHRS, the nominating

\* Elements are defined as resources or groupings of resources identified as having values essential to the nomination of a river.

agency must lodge a management plan with the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. This plan is prepared and approved by the appropriate federal, provincial, or territorial agencies which have responsibility for the planning and management of that river.

The contents of the management plan are the prerogative of the managing agencies alone and are not "approved" or "disapproved" by the Board. The plan should, however, establish the boundaries of a river management area to be included in the CHRS, and set out the policies and practices to be followed by the managing agencies to ensure its development, management and use consistent with the objectives of the System.

The plan should thus demonstrate the commitment on the part of the nominating jurisdiction to protect the river's heritage values for which it was nominated.

#### **Financing the System**

Funding responsibilities for the CHRS are shared in the following manner:

Parks Canada assumes the cost of: staffing and operating the Secretariat; publicizing the system at both the national and international levels; assistance to managing jurisdictions for studies required for nomination documents and management plans.

The government responsible for managing a designated river assumes the cost of the development and operation contemplated in the management plan.

#### **Rivers Nominated to Date**

As of the June meeting this year of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, a total of eight rivers or sections of rivers are now officially nominated to the System. From east to west across the country they are:

St. Croix River, New Brunswick  
French River, Ontario  
Bloodvein River, Manitoba  
Clearwater River, Saskatchewan  
Athabasca River, Jasper National Park  
North Saskatchewan River, Banff National Park  
South Nahanni River, Nahanni National Park Reserve  
Alesk River, Kluane National Park Reserve

For more information on these rivers, the reader is invited to write to the managing provincial or territorial governments or to Parks Canada in the cases of national park rivers. Detailed information on the CHRS as a whole is contained in the document *Canadian Heritage Rivers System: Objectives, Principles and Procedures*. This and other CHRS publications are available from:

Secretary  
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board  
Parks Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 1G2

# The Athabasca River: Jasper National Park

The section of the Athabasca River nominated to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is located in Jasper National Park, Alberta, 370 km west from Edmonton and 415 km west from Calgary by road.

In 1907, Jasper National Park, a 1.1 million hectare wilderness area, was set aside by Parks Canada to ensure that the watershed of the Upper Athabasca River, its tributaries, major landscape features and ecosystems would be preserved intact.

The section of the Athabasca River within Jasper National Park was nominated by Parks Canada as a Canadian Heritage River at the January, 1984 meeting of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. Designation of this river section is pending submission of a river management plan.

## Role in the Canadian Heritage River System:

The role of the nominated section of the Athabasca River in the CHRS will be:

- to provide representation of western mountain river environments, transportation history in western Canada over more than 200 years, and to provide an outstanding recreational experience for novice and intermediate canoeists, kayakers, and other river travellers.

## Physical Features:

The Athabasca River originates in the Columbia Icefield in the Main Ranges of the Rocky Mountains, Jasper National Park, and in total, flows 1,538 km to its mouth in Lake Athabasca. The section nominated as a Canadian Heritage River consists of its upper reaches and headwaters and flows for a distance of 168 km through Jasper National Park. The river is of variable width and contains excellent examples of braided channels with narrows, gorges and waterfalls, and downstream alluvial flats more than a kilometre wide.

The Athabasca drains a large portion of the Columbia Icefield east of the Continental Divide. The river altitude within the park varies from 1,317 m. a.s.l. from Lower Sunwapta Falls to 969 m. a.s.l. near Hinton, just beyond the park boundary.

## Access

The nominated section of the Athabasca River can be reached by several major highways—Highways 16, 93, 2 and the Trans-Canada Highway—from Edmonton and Calgary in Alberta and from British Columbia. Access to the river itself is frequent via highway pull-offs and parking areas within the Park.

## Natural Heritage Features

The Athabasca River\* contains several outstanding features related to the history, on-going fluvial and glacial processes, aeolian features, and unique landscapes.

The more notable of these are:

The Main Ranges of the Canadian Rocky

\* Nominated Section

Mountains, in which are visible stratigraphic sequences dating from 600 million years B.P.

The Columbia Icefield, the largest icefield in the North American Rocky Mountains.

Jasper Lake and Athabasca Falls, two areas of exceptional natural beauty.

## Human Heritage Features

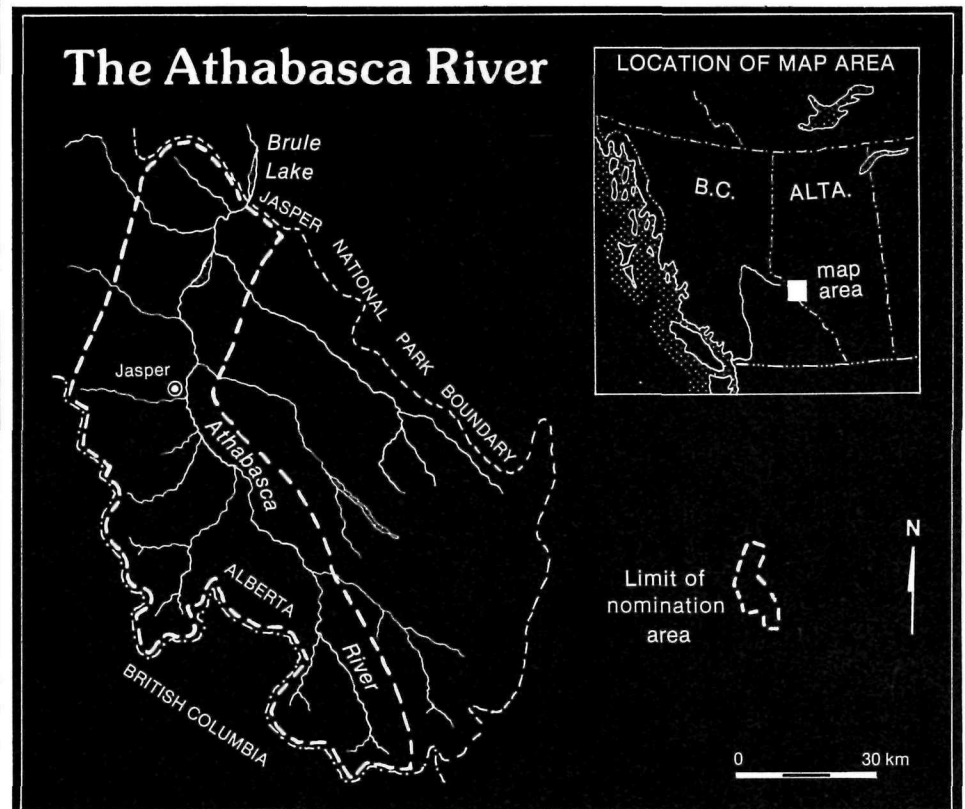
The Athabasca River\* contains a number of historical features which provide outstanding examples of Canada's history:

The Athabasca River played a key role in Canadian development serving for more than 50 years as the major fur trade link between the Oregon country and the Canadian interior; later as a transportation corridor for the Cariboo gold rush of the Overlanders in 1862; and, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as a corridor for rail and road construction.

The Athabasca River valley is strongly associated with David Thompson and his discovery of the Athabasca Pass in 1811, and William Henry who travelled with Thompson on this expedition.

The Athabasca contains representations of three major themes in Canadian History: the Fur Trade, Survey and Mapping, and Land Transportation—all of which are commemorated by National Historic Sites (NHS) within Jasper National Park along the river or in its headwaters:

- Fur Trade Theme  
Jasper House (NHS)
- Survey and Mapping Theme:  
David Thompson, Discoverer of the Athabasca Pass (NHS)  
Henry House (NHS)







Information Display: Jasper

CREDIT: PARKS CANADA

For information write to:

Superintendent  
Jasper National Park  
Box 10  
Jasper, Alta.  
T0E 1E0

OR

Information Services  
Parks Canada  
Western Region  
P.O. Box 2989  
Station M.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2P 3H8

Topographic Maps for the river (#83C, D, E, F) are available from:

Canada Map Office  
615 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0E9

- Land Transportation Theme:  
Athabasca Pass (NHS)  
The Overlanders of 1862 (NHS)

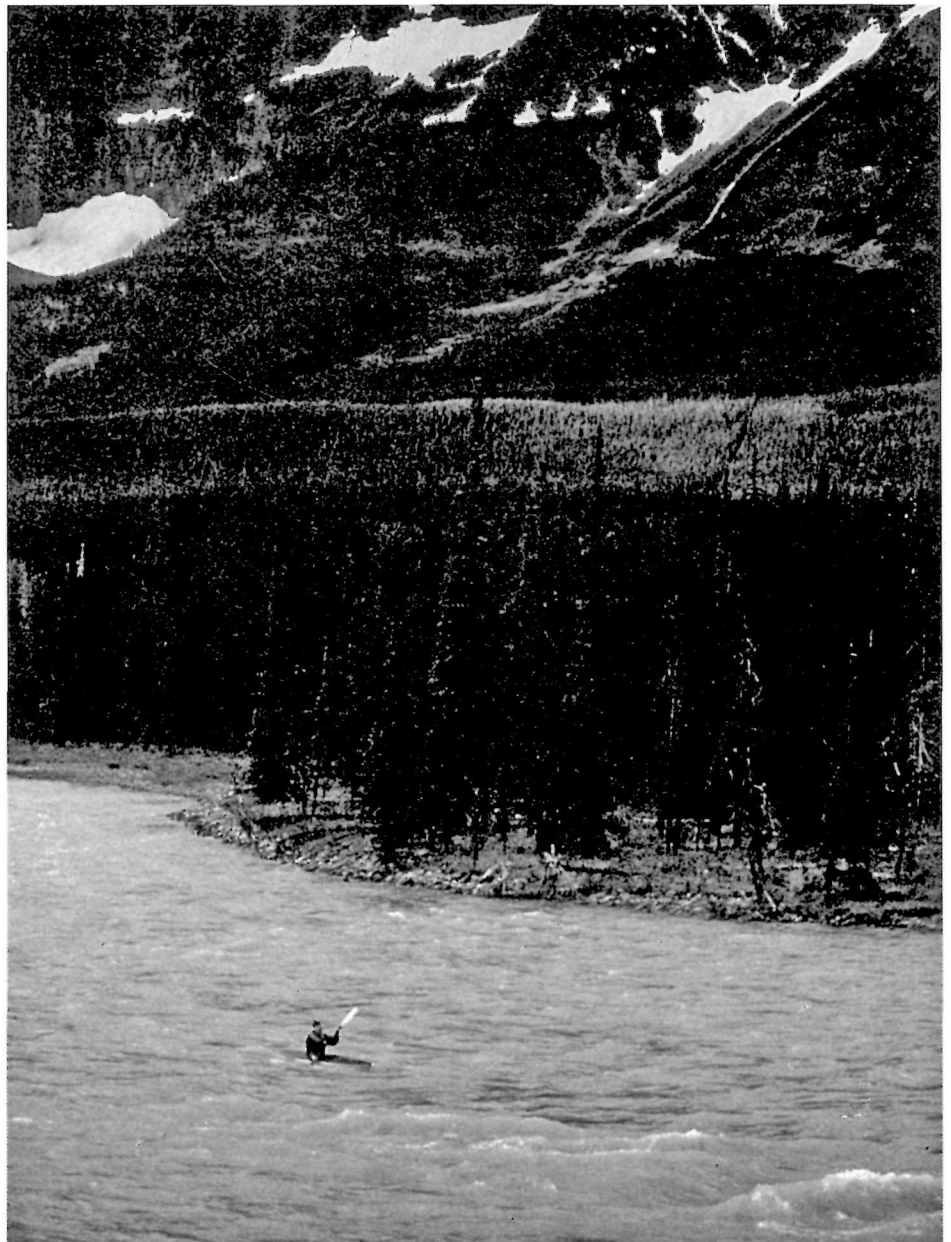
The use of the river valley by the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern Railway lines, which have both been commemorated by NHS plaques elsewhere, also testify to the river's significance from the standpoint of land transportation history in Canada.

**Recreational Features**

The Athabasca River\* provides outstanding opportunities for river touring, natural heritage appreciation, human heritage appreciation and frequent opportunities for shore-based activities such as hiking, camping and picnicking. The river contains a 51 km stretch upstream of Jasper, suitable for white-water boats and covered canoes. It is rated Grade 3—Medium Difficulty—under the International River Classification System. A 58 km section downstream of Jasper townsite is rated Grades 1 and 2—Very Easy to Easy—which is suitable for novices. The river and related support services and facilities are provided and managed by Parks Canada.

**Visitor Information**

Raft tours and canoeing are popular with river users, the river provides approximately 1,300 visitor-use days for these activities annually. Jasper is the main service community for the park. Banff, Hinton, and Valemount also provide accommodation, services and facilities for park visitors. Primitive campsites are located upstream of Jasper Lake and on the Fiddle River fan; three developed vehicular campgrounds are also available along the river: Mount Kerkeslin, Wabassa, and Wapiti campgrounds. A park-use permit is required by all persons using primitive campsites.



Athabasca River

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# PUBLICATIONS

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1984

OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN CANADA: A PRELIMINARY STUDY by S. Scott and J. G. Nelson. 1973, 50 pages, 11 maps, photographs, \$3.00.

MAN'S IMPACT ON POINT PELEE NATIONAL PARK by J. G. Battin and J. G. Nelson. 1978, 175 pages, maps, photographs. (Available now only from the Friends of Point Pelee Co-operating Association.)

THE LAND SPEAKS: ORGANIZING AND RUNNING AN INTERPRETATION SYSTEM by Y. Edwards. 1980, 85 pages, line drawings, \$5.00.

THE PARK BUFFALO by S. C. Ogilvie and R. C. Scace. 1979, 69 pages, maps, black and white and colour photographs, \$5.00.

WILDERNESS NOW by Algonquin Wildlands League. 1980, 72 pages, maps and photographs, \$5.00.

TRAGEDY IN OUR NATIONAL PARKS? by W. A. Fuller. 1977, 15 pages, free.

SNOW WAR: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF ROGERS PASS, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, B.C. by J. Woods and J. S. Marsh. 1982, 52 pages, maps, numerous photographs, \$5.00.

PARK NEWS INDEX: VOLUMES 1-17, 1965-1981 compiled by Jean and James Soper, 1983, 48 pages, \$5.00.

WILDERNESS AND THE ARTS, special theme issue of *Park News* edited by J. S. Marsh. 1982, 42 pages, black and white and colour photographs, \$2.00.

SPECIAL NORTHERN EDITION: PARK NEWS, edited by J. Theberge. 1983, 41 pages, maps, photographs, line drawings, \$2.00.

PARK NEWS various back issues since 1976, \$1.00.

NPPAC, ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION: A LIST OF BRIEFS AND PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS. 1983, 20 pages, free.

PARKS AND TOURISM: PROGRESS OR PROSTITUTION? edited by Bruce Downie and Bob Peart. 1982, 76 pages, \$5.00.

## ORDERS

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# The North Saskatchewan River: Banff National Park

North Saskatchewan River from Parker Ridge.

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# The Alsek River: Kluane National Park

The section of the Alsek River within Kluane National Park Reserve, Yukon Territory was recommended for inclusion in the CHRS by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board on the basis of its outstanding natural values at the CHRS Board's June, 1984 meeting. Designation of the Alsek River as a Canadian Heritage River is pending submission of a river management plan.

## Location

The section of the Alsek River nominated for inclusion in the CHRS is 90 km long and is located entirely within the Kluane National Park Reserve, Yukon Territory. It is located approximately 180 km northwest of Whitehorse, Yukon and approximately 2,250 km northwest of Edmonton, Alberta.

## Role in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System

The role of the Alsek River\* in the CHRS will be to provide representation of:  
the headwaters of river environments within Canada's Northern Coast Mountains; a glacially-derived, divide river; and an undisturbed wilderness river containing coastally-influenced arctic vegetation and sizeable wildlife populations.

## Physical Features

The Alsek River originates in the Kluane and Icefield Ranges of the St. Elias Mountains in the Yukon Territory, significant components of the Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias World Heritage Site established by UNESCO in 1979. From the confluence of the Kasbourilsh, Dusty and Dezadeash Rivers, the Alsek flows undisturbed for approximately 250 km through the southwest corner of the Yukon, across the northern tip of British Columbia and the Alaskan panhandle and flows into the Pacific Ocean at Dug Bay, Alaska. The section nominated as a Canadian Heritage River consists of its headwaters and upper reaches and flows in a narrow, often steep canyoned valley seldom exceeding 1-2 km in width for 90 km within Kluane National

Park Reserve. In its lower reaches within the park reserves, the river is characterized by spectacular glaciers—the Lowell and Fisher Glaciers, which are among the best representatives of the largest non-polar ice caps in the world.

## Access

There are no established roads providing access to the Alsek River. Access to Kluane National Park Reserve from southern Canada is normally by scheduled airline to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory (pop. 14,814) 160 km east of the park reserve and from here, by the Alaska Highway to Haines Junction (pop. 3,667) 20 km northwest of the Alsek. The Haines Road was near the eastern boundary of the park providing access to Haines Junction from the south.

Bus and car rental services are available from both Whitehorse, Y.T. and Haines, Alaska for road access via the Alaska Highway. Haines, Alaska can be reached from southern B.C. by regularly scheduled coastal ferry service.

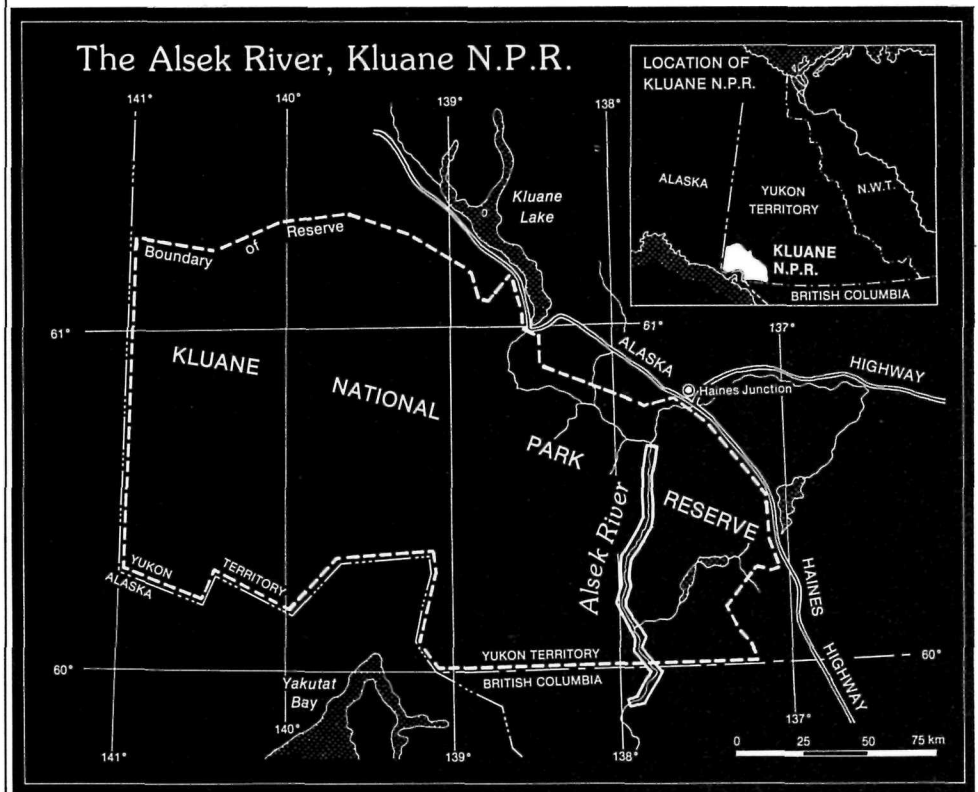
Within Kluane, it is possible to reach the Alsek River following a track along the Dezadeash River Valley *suitable only for four-wheel drive vehicles*.

Future access to the river is planned utilizing a proposed public transit with raft, canoe or kayak trips on the Kaskourish River; a shuttle boat and trail access system to the Lower Alsek River area; and, an extensive trail network commencing at either Kathleen or Onion Lakes along the Haines Road.

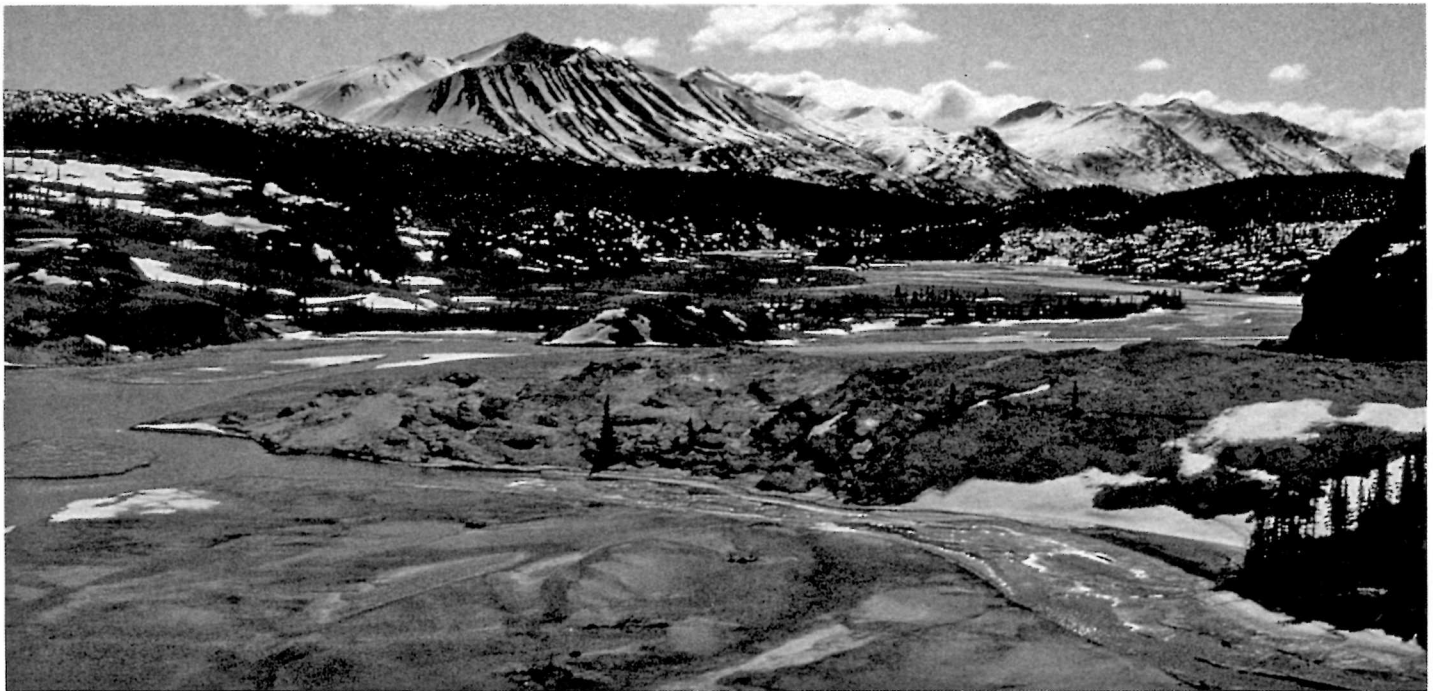
## Natural Heritage Features

The Alsek River\* contains several significant natural features including spectacular representations of on-going fluvial, glacial, and aeolian processes, outstanding examples of natural landforms, areas of exceptional natural beauty and some of Canada's best representations of Northern Coast Mountain ecosystems, its plants and its animal inhabitants. Among the more significant of these features are:

- glacial and fluvial activity within the Icefield Ranges represented by the action of the Fisher and Lowell Glaciers, among the largest valley glaciers in the world;
- the periodic creation of ice dams by the surging of the Lowell Glacier against Goatberd Mountain, with some dams estimated to be more than 150 m high;
- significant sand dunes, the Alsek dunes, found along the east side of the valley;
- an outstanding and unusually large example



\* The term "Alsek River" followed by an asterisk (\*) in this document refers only to the nominated section within Kluane National Park Reserve.



Alsek River

CREDIT: PARKS CANADA

of braided river channel morphology at the Alsek Source;

several northern large mammal species such as wolf, wolverine, mountain goat, and a significant grizzly bear population which is thought to be the largest, stable population of grizzly bear in Canada;

scarce populations of golden eagle and trumpeter swan;

an almost unique plant species of Siberian Sedge in Alsek pass; and

a concentration of plant communities in the Lower Alsek River Valley, many species of which are uncommon (Sewhorse in the Yukon).

#### Visitor Information

Haines Junction is the main service community for Kluane National Park Reserve. Visitation levels recorded in 1982 showed 64,501 travellers along the Alaska Highway-Haines Road corridor stopped in at the Haines Junction Visitor Reception Centre and the Sheep Mountain Information Centre. Very few of these visitors, however, visited the park reserve interior. The following information should prove helpful for planning a trip to Kluane National Park Reserve and to view or take a river trip along the Alsek River:

The Alsek River is navigable from near the junction of the Dezadeash River to the tongue of the Tweedsmuir Glacier, 20-30 km south of the park reserve. However, navigation is only possible by kayak or raft, being too swift to canoe. Even then, the Alsek is extremely difficult and hazardous for river trips throughout the year—summer water temperatures average 2-4°C and winds up to 100 km/hr. are not uncommon. For these reasons, visitors are most likely to view the Alsek from the air.

Air charter may be arranged through local

commercial aircraft operations. Outfitters from Whitehorse and Haines Junction provide sightseeing expeditions along the Alsek River corridor without landing or may arrange for wilderness expeditions through the Park Reserve and river touring, with possible aircraft landings on sites along the Alsek River which are yet to be identified in management plans for the park reserve.

Arctic grayling, lake trout, and northern pike are found in most of Kluane's lakes and streams. A permit is required for fishing in Yukon Territory waters and in the National Park Reserve. The former may be obtained from a number of stores and government establishments throughout the Yukon, the latter from the Park Superintendent at Haines Junction.

Limited commercial accommodation is available at Whitehorse, Haines Junction, Kluane Lake, and Burwash Landing. The Yukon Territorial government maintains campgrounds along the Alaska Highway and Haines Road. A 50-unit campground with cookhouse and outdoor toilets is under development at Kathleen Lake within the park reserve.

Travel restrictions such as "no open fires" may be imposed by the Yukon Forest Service or by Parks Canada during periods or in areas of high fire hazard.

Overnight park users must register with the Park Warden Service and obtain park-use permits (campfire permits), as most people planning a mountaineering expedition in the park.

Weather suitable for river touring, camping, and other recreation pursuits within Kluane occurs between June 15 and September 15, with yearly temperature extremes of the high 80's in July and -65°C in January. Summer water temperature averages 2-4°C.

The Tatshemshini-Alsek River corridor south of Kluane is also becoming a popular destination with several trip operators offering float trips of up to 10 days' duration. Information on this area is available from:

The Superintendent  
Glacier Bay National  
Monument and Preserve  
Box 1089  
Juneau, Alaska, U.S.A.  
99082

Topographic Maps for the Alsek River, Kluane National Park Reserve include:

1:250,000—115A Maps at 1:50,000 are not available for the Alsek River. South of Kluane 1:250,000 maps for the Alsek include: 115B, 114O, and 114P.

These maps may be obtained from:

Canada Map Office  
615 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0E9

For river guide, outfitters, travel, and air charter information contact:

Tourism Yukon  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 2C6

For more information on the Alsek River, Kluane National Park Reserve write:

Superintendent  
Kluane National Park Reserve  
Parks Canada  
Haines Junction, Yukon Territory  
Y0B 1L0

For more information on the Canadian Heritage Rivers System write:

Assistant Secretary  
Canadian Heritage Rivers System  
Parks Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 1G2

# The South Nahanni River Nahanni National Park

The section of the South Nahanni River nominated to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is located in the Nahanni Park Reserve, Northwest Territories, approximately 1,000 km northwest of Edmonton and 600 km west of Yellowknife.

The South Nahanni River is the central feature in Nahanni National Park Reserve, a 4,766 km<sup>2</sup> wilderness area, set aside by Parks Canada to protect a wild river and a mountainous environment representative of the Mackenzie Mountains natural region (1972).

In 1978 Nahanni National Park Reserve became the first area in the world to be officially designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The 322 km section of the South Nahanni River in the Park Reserve was nominated as a Canadian Heritage River by Parks Canada at the January, 1984 meeting of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. Designation of the river section is pending submission of a river management plan.

## Role in Canadian Heritage River System

The South Nahanni's role in the CHRS will be: to provide representation of sub-arctic river environments of western Canada, and to provide an outstanding river touring experience in an internationally significant river environment.

## Physical Features

The South Nahanni River originates in the Selwyn Mountains, east of the Yukon-NWT boundary. In total it flows 538 km southeastward through the Mackenzie Mountains into the Liard River.

The river flows from an altitude of 2,700 m in its upper reaches to 300 m at its lower end and drains a total land area of 36,200 km<sup>2</sup>.

The width of the South Nahanni within the Park Reserve varies from a few metres in constricted canyon areas such as the Gate, to several kilometres in branching river channels such as the Splits.

## Access

There are no roads entering or within the Reserve. Road access to Nahanni Butte, 33 km downstream of the Reserve, is via the Liard Highway and a service road. Highway 10 provides access to Tungsten, 40 km west of the river.

Air access to the South Nahanni River is provided by commercial aircraft to Fort Simpson, NWT, 130 km to the northeast, or

via Watson Lake, Yukon, 200 km to the northwest. Aircraft charter to Nahanni Butte, Tungsten, Virginia Falls, Rabbitkettle Lake, or Deadmen Valley is available from both Fort Simpson and Watson Lake.

Water access to the nominated part of the river is possible from Tungsten via the Flat River; from Nahanni Butte via the upper part of the South Nahanni River; and from other upstream locations via wilderness land and water routes.

## Natural Heritage Features

The following are among the South Nahanni River's\* most important natural features:

Virginia Falls, the most spectacular (90 m) undeveloped waterfall in Canada;

First, Second, and Third Canyons, up to 19 km long and 1,100-1,300 m deep, and the biggest canyon system in the world north of 60° latitude;

unglaciated landforms dating back 200,000 years;

a representation of North Karst, the largest sub-arctic karst system in the world;

complex cave systems, notably Grotte Valerie and Grotte Mickey;\*\*

Rabbitkettle and Kraus Hotsprings, the former giving rise to the largest tufa mounds in Canada;

the Sand Blowouts, 6 m tall wind-eroded sandstone sculptures;

classic examples of braided river channels and other fluvial features;

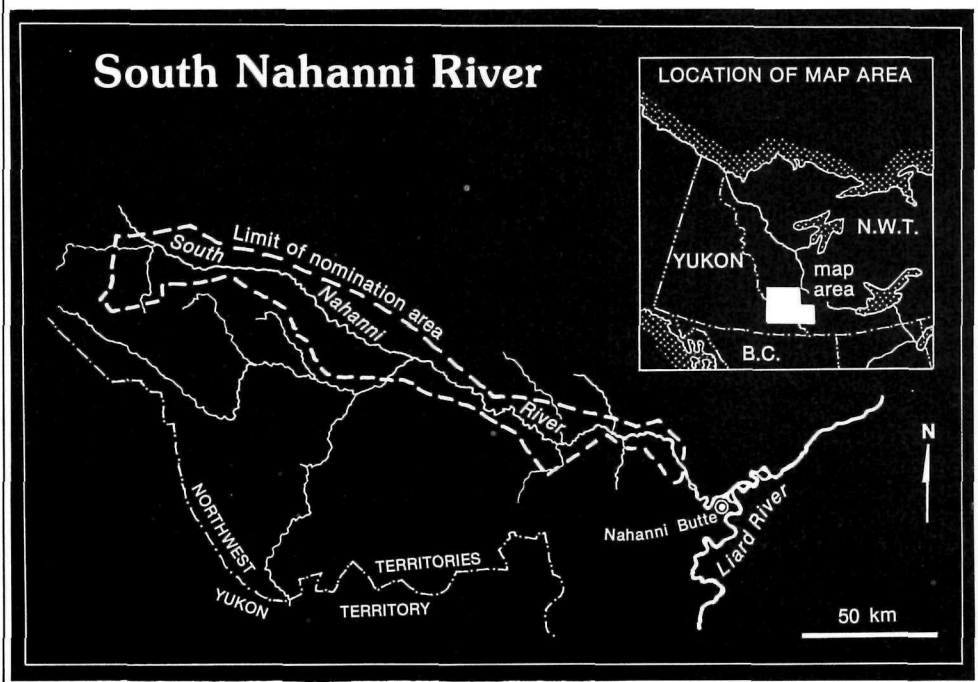
representation of more than 120 bird species, 13 fish species, and 750 plant species;

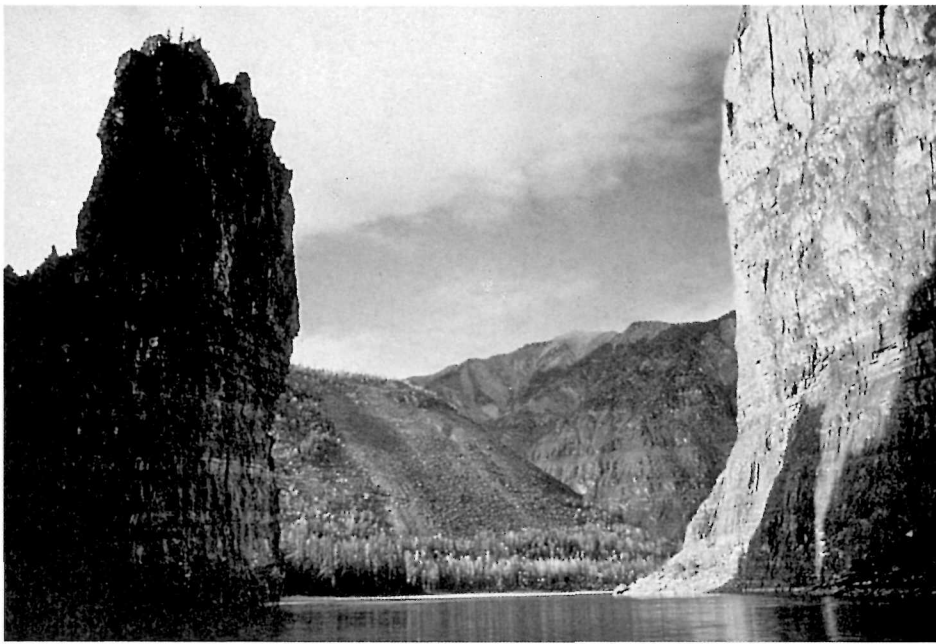
grizzly bear, bald eagle, osprey, and peregrine falcon sightings;

trumpeter swan nesting ponds, and rare orchids.

\* Nominated Section

\*\* Visitor access is restricted.





CREDIT: PARKS CANADA



### Recreational Features

River navigability along the South Nahanni River\* is variable but, for the most part, is not difficult. Frequent flat water provides good opportunities for scenic viewing, especially in the canyon areas. Here, uncharacteristically slow gradients and smoother river bottoms provide for a relaxed setting for the best canyon views in Canada; yet, in some sections, riffles and short rapids provide a challenge for whitewater enthusiasts. In the lower part, short stretches of dangerous white water occur which require reconnoitering or portaging.

The navigational potential of the South Nahanni changes with variations in water flow. Normally, all reaches of the South Nahanni are navigable from May to late September with water levels considerably lower in August and September. However, rapid discharges resulting from violent summer storms can cause the inundation of campsites and can make rapids too difficult to run. Nevertheless, the portages that do exist along the river range from easy to difficult.

### Visitor Information

Rafting and canoeing are the favoured means of travel for the 400-500 visitors who travel this part of the river each year. Canoe and other equipment rentals are available at Whitehorse, Yukon, and Watson Lake. Fort Simpson, Fort Liard, Tungsten, and Fort Nelson offer services for visitors to the Reserve. Certain supplies are also available at Nahanni Butte.

Warden cabins have been established along the river at Rabbitkettle Lake, Subblood Mountain, and the Flat River confluence. Primitive campgrounds are established at Rabbitkettle Lake, Virginia Falls, Marengo Creek, Big Bend, Deadmen Valley, and Kraus Hotsprings. Visitors are warned that travel restrictions may be imposed and chartered aircraft enlisted without advance notice during periods of high fire hazard. A fishing permit is also required and may be obtained from the Park Superintendent or from the Federal Fisheries Service in Whitehorse.

It is important to write to the Superintendent before making plans to visit Nahanni:

Superintendent  
Nahanni National Park  
P.O. Bag No. 300  
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.  
X0E 0N0

Further technical information is available from:

Information Services  
Parks Canada Prairie Region  
391 York Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 4B7

Topographic Maps for the river (#95E and #95F) are available from:

Canada Map Office  
615 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0E9

# The St. Croix River: New Brunswick

The St. Croix River Basin is located in the southwestern portion of New Brunswick, Canada and the northeastern corner of Maine, United States. It is an area which is defined geographically by two contiguous but distinct zones: the St. Croix River, and the Chiputneticook Lake system watershed. Throughout the entire length both the river and lakes serve a major role as an international boundary between Canada and the United States.

The St. Croix River originally received special recognition by the Province of New Brunswick in 1982 when it was designated by Order-In-Council as the St. Croix Waterway Recreation Area. It has now been nominated to the Canadian Heritage River System as a historically, naturally and recreationally significant river flowing through an outstandingly beautiful maritime river environment.

The St. Croix River Basin is a diverse blend of rolling, wooded hills, vast marshes, expansive lakes, and spectacular granite glaciated deposits. The rocky landscape gives easy testimony to a geological past which represents over 400 million years of the earth's history. Outstanding examples of rock formation, uplifting, faulting, folding, and glacial processes are easily visible and accessible.

The geological processes have formed a diversity of landscapes which provide excellent habitats for both flora and fauna. The habitats within the area are conducive to several rare vascular plant species, most notably the cardinal flower and various species of viburnum.

The area also provides an appropriate habitat to ensure the survival of a concentration of bald eagles in this area which is of special interest and significance for Canada.

The St. Croix is renowned for its historical significance. There is clear evidence that the earliest people to populate Eastern North America are represented in the area. Archeological sites of great significance are found along the river and lakes with information available on four distinct cultures: the Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Susquahanna, and Aramaic time periods. Each culture differs in its environmental adaptation, technology, and trading patterns.

The earliest radio-carbon dated site in New Brunswick is Mud Lake Stream on Spednic Lake. Artifacts have been found that date to the Susquahanna occupation of 5,000 years ago. During the last 2,500 years, the native peoples have exploited the shellfish of the St. Croix estuary. The campsites actually became mounds of shell or "shell middens."

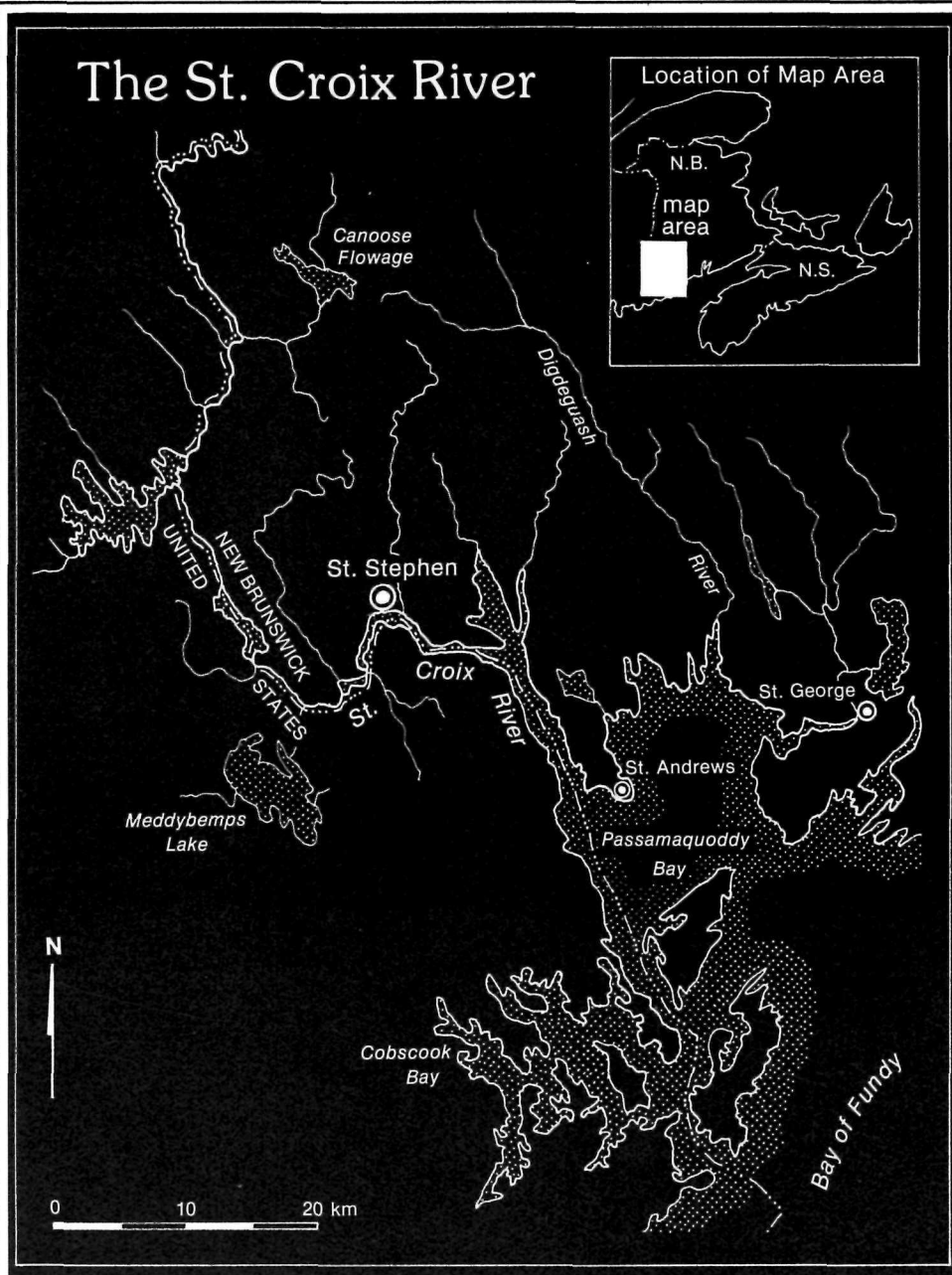
In 1604 the St. Croix River was the site of a memorable event in Canadian history. Samuel de Champlain landed and established the first European settlement on the North American continent north of Florida. St. Croix Island has recently been designated as an international historic site.

From as early as 1621 the St. Croix River has developed as a "hereditary boundary" for several historic periods including the





# The St. Croix River



Acadian, English, Loyalist and later periods. For example, in 1783 the Loyalists used the river as a line of sanctuary. Later during the American Civil War, early draft dodgers established a community on "Skedadale Ridge."

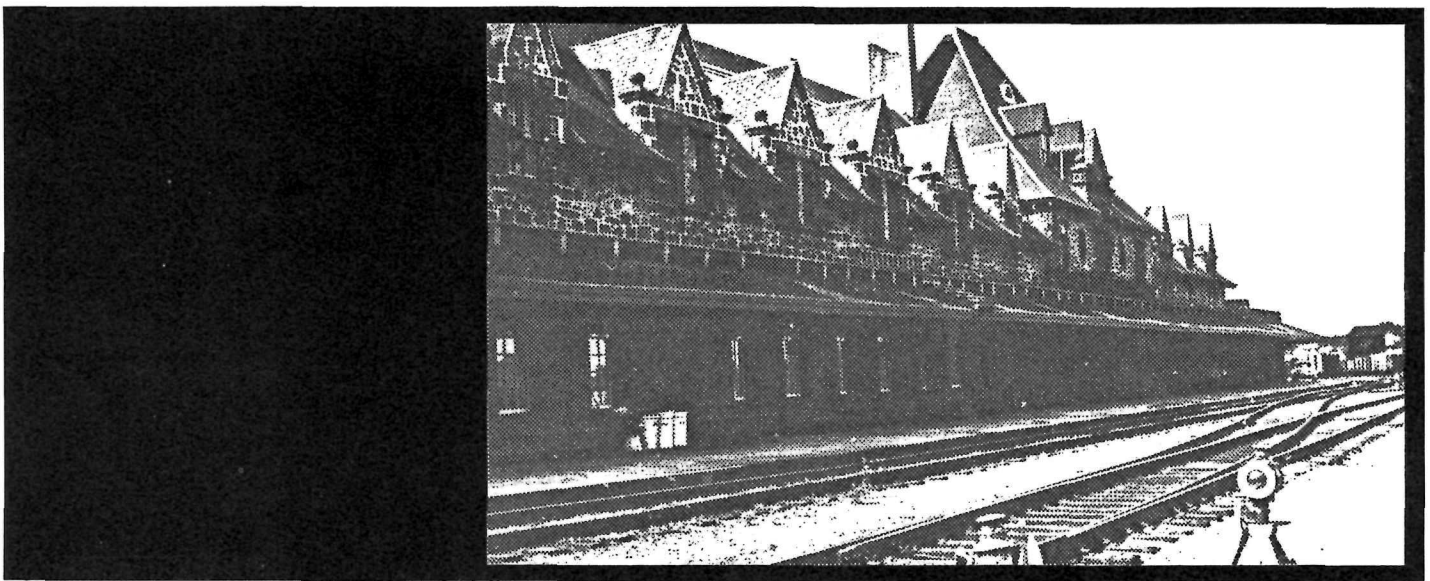
The St. Croix Waterway became an important economic avenue for 19th- and 20th-Century New Brunswick with lumbering activities that influenced the location of the first transcontinental railway. The McAdam railway station gives testimony to this era and has been designated as a National Historic Site.

The numerous natural and historical features of the area provide a variety of experiences the visitor can enjoy. Perhaps the greatest recreational opportunity presented by the river system is river touring. While the available water surface area of fifteen major lakes supports a variety of water-borne activities, it is the interconnection between water bodies which provides the potential for a diverse pattern of canoe tripping routes within a relatively concentrated area. The St. Croix River itself offers a variety of river-running experiences ranging from still water to fast current to exciting rapids.

The St. Croix River already receives intensive recreational use. The nominated area is well connected to the major population centres of northeastern North America. The entire population of the Province of New Brunswick is within 6 hours driving time, as are other major urban centres such as Halifax, Nova Scotia and Portland, Maine. Most of the densely populated regions of the American northeastern seaboard are within one day's driving time.

The Province of New Brunswick is now in the process of preparing a management plan for the St. Croix, a worthy yet major challenge considering the international nature of the river and the proximity of major markets.

CREDIT: HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES, NEW BRUNSWICK



# Ontario's French River

The French River is a worthy addition to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, with outstanding examples of many nationally significant natural and cultural heritage values. In addition, the French provides a wide variety of recreational opportunities. Situated in Southern Ontario, 300 km north of Toronto, the French River is an ancient river of the Canadian Shield, and is an important location as a drainage way in the watershed of Georgian Bay. Although the river corridor itself is 100 km long, its numerous channels make the water course three times that length.

The French possesses representative and classic features of preglacial river erosional environments, some being 40,000 years old. There are textbook examples of glacial ice molded landscapes on the erosion-resistant Canadian Shield, including an extensive bedrock delta on Georgian Bay. Also found in the French River corridor are nationally and provincially significant relict flora, typical of more eastern and western vegetation regions, which serve as indicators of post-glacial plant migration and distribution. Of the 450 species observed, eight are rare in Ontario.

The presence of certain southern plants and animals in the area indicates that there are ongoing changes in flora and fauna in this part of the Great Lakes. The occurrence of *Boreal flora within the corridor* is evidence of the transition between the Boreal Forest Region and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Region in this part of Ontario. The theme of plant migration is well represented in the corridor by the Blunt-lobed Grape Fern, a rare plant in Canada, which is more abundant in the French River mouth area than in its known eastern coastal range. In addition, a nationally significant plant species, Virginian Chain-Fern, is found in the extensive wetlands in the Georgian Bay-French River mouth area. Nowhere in Canada is this fern habitat so abundant as here. Provincially significant faunal species, the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake and Yellow Pickerel, are also found in the corridor. The Massasauga Rattlesnake is an endangered species in Ontario and its condition and habitat here suggest that it is relatively undisturbed.

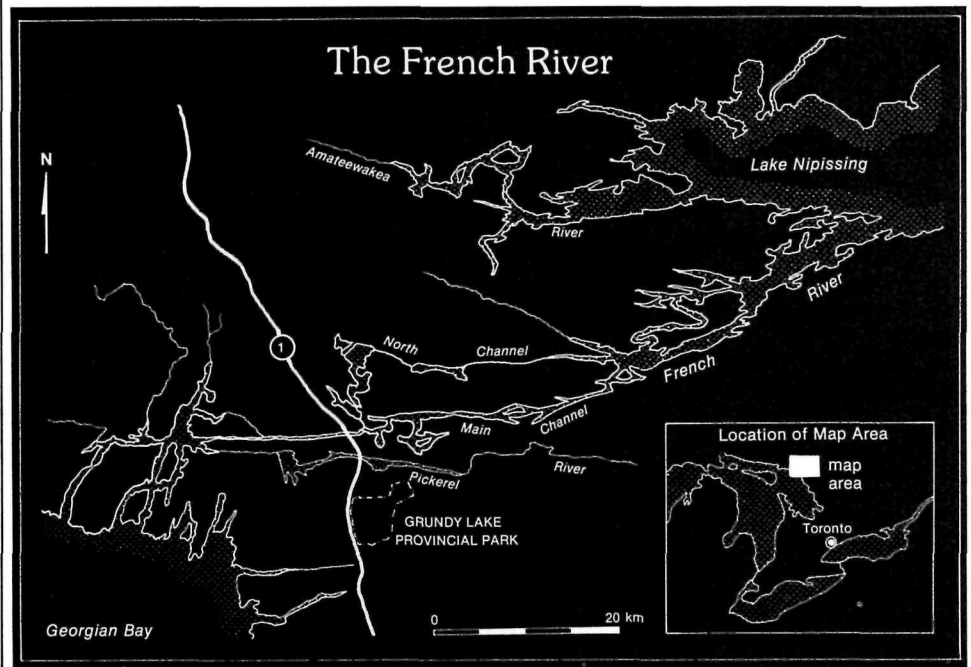
The French River is probably most sig-

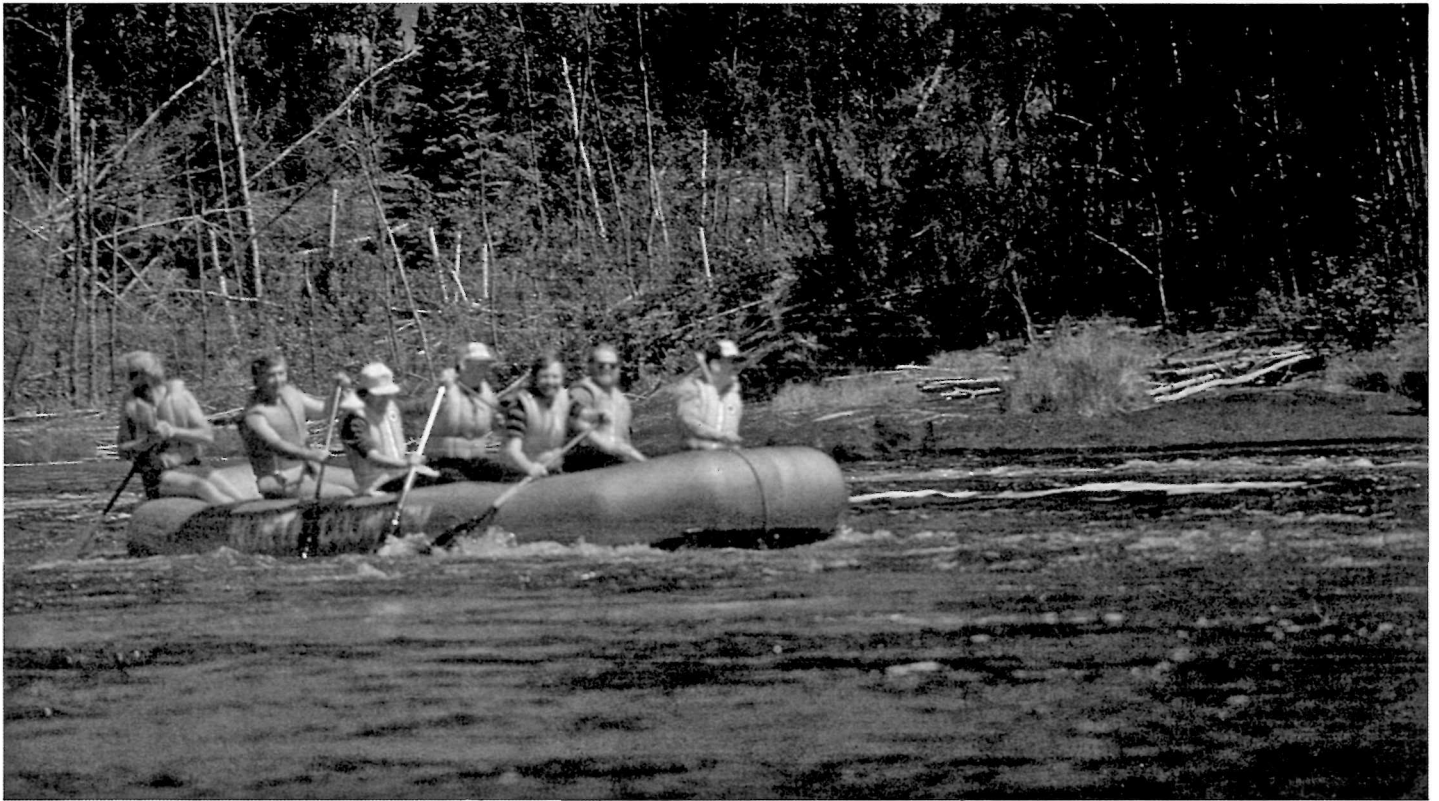
nificant for its historical heritage. Archaeological evidence indicates use of the river as a transportation route in the precontact period, prior to contact between Indians and the Europeans. In fact, the French River was given its name by Ojibwa Indians because it was the river which brought the French into their land. Etienne Brule (1610) and Samuel de Champlain (1615) made initial contacts with Indians in the area, and it was they who produced the first maps and descriptions for these interior lands and people. After the Ojibwa developed trade relations with the Europeans, the river was used as a travel route for fur traders heading from eastern markets to central and western resource areas (1615-1760). This first economic activity in Canada is of national significance. Artifacts lost when voyageur canoes were upset have been recovered from various rapids on the river. Also, fur trading via the river helped form a link between the Ottawa River system and the Great Lakes. After the exploitation of fur resources, the settlement that occurred in the river corridor was based on forestry,

agriculture, commercial fishing and more recently, tourism. On the undeveloped Crown land along the French River, visitors may feel a sense of wilderness in the undisturbed landscape which sets an appropriate atmosphere for appreciating the area's prominent history.

Aside from natural and historical heritage, the French River is rich in its recreational value as well. Opportunities include small craft boating, canoeing, hiking, camping, hunting, scenic viewing and sport fishing. Sport fishing is a major recreational attraction concentrating on the Yellow Pickerel populations in the mouth portion. The combined factors of good water quality, fast water, deep pools, and shoals provide productive fisheries capabilities. Also of significance is the Loring White-tailed Deer herd which inhabits the southern shores of the Upper French River and adjacent areas. The boating opportunities afforded to both small and large craft by the variety of river conditions and the access possible in the recreation areas are considered a provincially significant attraction. Water conditions vary from open lake-like water bodies which are slow moving and deep, to shallow water with narrow and faster rapids. As a result, the river has regionally significant canoeing potential, appealing to a variety of skill levels.

In view of its many merits, Ontario's French River has also been proposed for designation as a waterway provincial park. Although there is considerable existing cottage and commercial resort development along the upper reaches of the river, the extensive areas of Crown land provide a variety of landscape types and water conditions, which could be managed for resource protection after park designation. This would ensure the protection of the French River's great beauty and national value.





The Bloodvein

CREDIT: R. L. CARTER

# The Bloodvein River: Manitoba

*After the meeting of the Board of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System in Winnipeg on June 19, 1984, several members spent two days rafting on the Bloodvein River. The following is a brief account of the journey by R. L. (Nick) Carter.*

We join the rafts at about 10:30 in the morning, on a quiet stretch below the junction of the Sasaginnigak River. The weather is clear and calm, with a promise of summer heat. Personal belongings are repacked into waterproof sacks and loaded tightly into the largest raft. A few words of wisdom about safety, and we paddle carefully into the current. The aircraft taxi away, leaving the message that the beer and steaks for tonight's dinner will be cached downstream and marked by a life jacket at the shore.

I should tell you a little about the rig. There are three inflated rubber rafts. Two are paddled, each by six men, steered by a seventh. One, known as the scow, is slightly larger and has on board all baggage and

food. It is powered by a small outboard when on unruffled water, and by a single pair of oars rigged centrally when manoeuvring in rapids. Carabiners clip the three rafts together to make easy progress under power between rapids. Separated, we paddle under the instructions of our own steersman, whose tolerance recognizes more willingness than skill.

Five minutes on calm water are spent on drills. There are four commands: "LEFT!"; "RIGHT!"; "PADDLE!"; "EASY!" They become more interesting as the day progresses—"Paddle like hell!" and "Right, you nits!" We are told that the essence of rafting, for amateurs at least, is to move the raft faster than the current. My recollection is that one of our six crewmen was always paddling when told to do so, but I do not recall six paddles entering fast water at any one time.

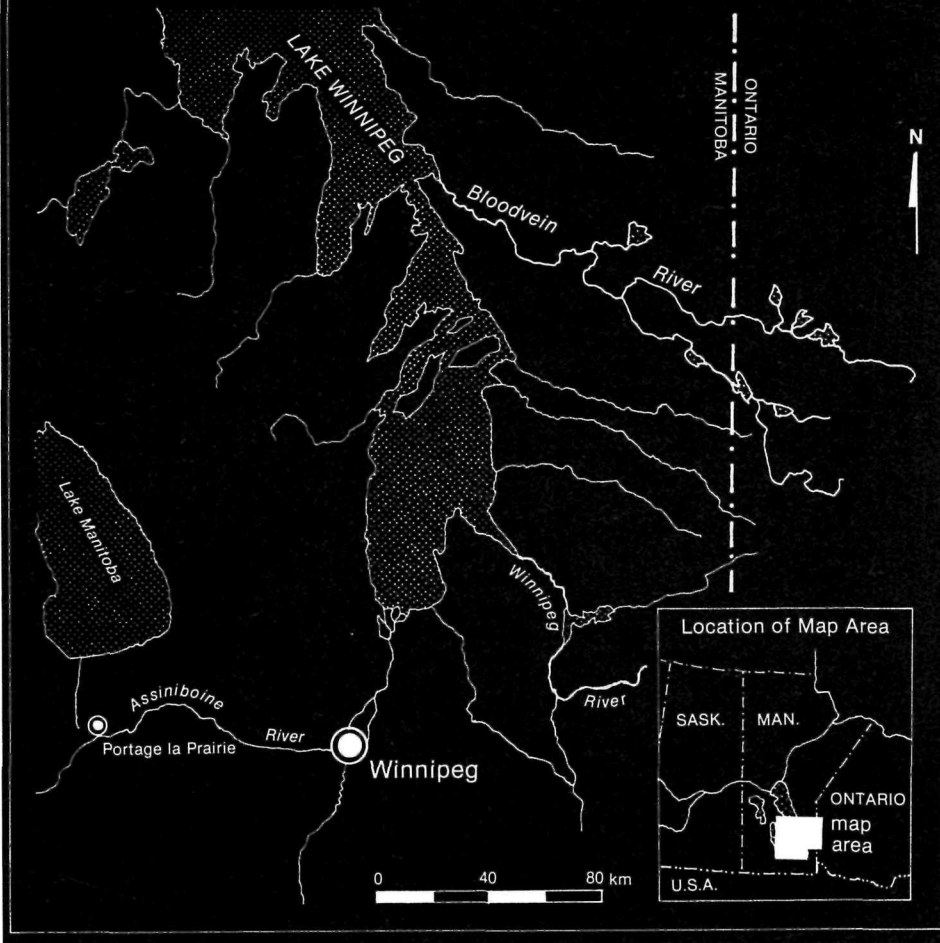
We emerge triumphant from the first rapids. Some whooped; some suffered resignedly; all became wet. But in the still pool, collecting our wits, trepidations die away. The water is not unbearably cold, the

sun is warming, the view up the rapids is beautiful, and those landlubbers in the other raft seem to have shipped more water than did we. How then, did Gerry bring the scow through standing at the oars as if he were poling a gondola?

The day develops a pattern. We shoot the breeze, sleep, or admire the scenery on the quiet reaches, breaking the silence of the woods with the gentle buzz of the outboard. Cameras are busy, although the scenery beyond the river bank is dull in the upper basin of the stream. New tree growth after a fire has a uniformity which is not offset by grand cliffs or rugged rock formations. Nonetheless, the rapids evidently satisfy the keenest raftsmen, for I hear talk of Class I, II, and III, and comparison with the Middle Fork, the Colorado, and our own Pigeon.

We scout the liveliest rapids from the bank, as much to stage entry for the benefit of the photographers as to determine the best route. I take delight in looking down upon the broiling water as a raft passes beneath me, marvelling at the flexibility of its inflated hose.

# The Bloodvein River



We become old hands, and a mite careless. In mid-afternoon, I fall off in one of the wildest rapids—it must be rough, because the scow loses a couple of packs!

It happened this way. The crews had been lulled by a long passage of calm water, passing beer, visiting between units, sun-bathing. The yell "Unclip!" went up as we rounded a bend. In the haste, the bucket we used for bailing was not attached to the raft. I paddled with one knee holding it down until I slid overboard.



A life jacket supports you neatly with head out of the water, leaving you free to concentrate on anything other than swimming to stay afloat. As well, you *do* remember instructions—in this case to push feet out in front of you to fend off from rocks. Lucky or not, in short order I was enjoying the rush through the rapid, warm and complacent about the dunking. I discovered, too, that once in less violent water, it was interesting to watch from water level the other two rafts make the descent. Crawling back aboard, I found I still had the paddle in my hand. I had lost a hat.

Next day, another paddler went over. He lost socks, shoes, and paddle, but kept a pipe in his mouth. As he put it, in a crisis, choices can sometimes be made with great clarity!

An osprey wings ahead of the rafts—this monstrous vessel invading its realm of tall cliffs and mature trees. The river now, and for the rest of the journey, meets the most critical standards we apply to CHRS nominations. A pity time is short for us all—I'd like to get out, spend time on the banks, in the marshes, and up the side streams. Truth to tell, the buzz of the motor is monotonous, I am flagging in wild water, and cold. How far to the cache and camp?

At eight o'clock we stop. No steaks tonight, but the scow carries tomorrow's breakfast. It will surely do.

The drill is neat, even for tired, untried crews. We unload in a chain, split to put up tents and make a fire. Then the warmth of that first nip courses through the bloodstream as we pull off wet clothes with one hand and pass the bottle with the other. I sleep outside, not able to face the drips from a wet tent. I hear a soft blend of Irish and Newfoundland accents as I fall asleep. They are singing by the fire.

A little stiff from hard rock beds, we emerge with grunts and sighs soon after first light. The warm, soft sands of Colorado River beaches are remembered. But soon the stiffness wears away. The coffee is good, the packing swift, the meticulous care taken by the steersmen to clean the campsite would satisfy the most conscientious environmentalist. With growing pleasure, we run the first rapid of the day and watch the morning mist lift from the first smooth stretch. Two hours, and we put ashore to pick up the steaks. They'll make a fine lunch.

Every rapid is now more than a fast dash through swirling water. Skills are improving, so we choose routes for experience and manage to overcome the compulsion to duck. We watch the water, where to place a paddle, plot a strategy. The steersmen discuss styles, the effects of direction and velocity against a flat paddle. We study the technique of our rivals, rest to watch Gerry bring the scow through raging water under oars.

As the rock walls get steeper, the sun disappears behind leaden clouds. Lunch cheers us, but it will surely rain before long. There are a couple of glorious chutes to run. We try to reach them in clear weather.

One chute is particularly exciting. Our raft traverses it cleanly, all the river in barely 20 feet of gap, fast, in places treacle smooth. We watch Gerry up-end one oar as the scow slides through; like a gull's wing, the blade shines light against the dark rock face. Then it rains in torrents, pelting down as we huddle in three colourful tent canopies, shapeless, bulging, dripping, and completely ineffective.

The sun begins to shine before we reach the mouth of the Leyond River. Plane times start to be of concern—we reluctantly take on the mental baggage of our daily occupations. The aircraft search and find you, dead on time. Good-byes are said to the steersmen, amiable and skilled companions, left to deflate the rafts and ship to the Pigeon.

\* \* \*

There is no doubt in our minds that the Bloodvein is a treasure in the Heritage Rivers System. The next journey must be by canoe, taking a month. This has been a fine recreational experience—a journey through fast water over some 45 river miles, but the deeper enchantment of the Bloodvein River, promised in small glimpses on this excursion, requires time that we did not have.

# The Clearwater River: Saskatchewan

## Significance

The province of Saskatchewan has nominated the Clearwater river from the outlet of Lloyd Lake to the Saskatchewan-Alberta Border as a Canadian Heritage River (187 km). The designation is meant to protect those values for which it was nominated.

The river has significance at an international level due firstly to its historical importance, and secondly because of the quality of the recreational opportunities it provides. There is national significance in the diversity and uniqueness of geophysical and biological features, including spectacular scenery and rare wildlife species. Added to this is the presence of prehistoric Indian rock art, and evidence of dramatic transformations of aboriginal culture. The significance at the provincial level relates to rare and diverse flora, as well as to excellent representation of sub-arctic climate and an Arctic watershed river in Saskatchewan.

## Location

The Clearwater River is located in North-western Saskatchewan, north of the community of La Loche. Recently constructed Provincial Highway #155 to Cluff Lake crosses the west flowing part of the river near Warner Rapids, 57 km north of La Loche and 83 km upstream from the Alberta border. Another 53 km north, the road passes to the west of Lloyd Lake from which the river flows southeast. Cluff Lake uranium mine is another 192 km north of Lloyd Lake. There is a commercial fishing lodge at Lloyd Lake and a 20 unit provincial campground at the Highway #155 crossing.

The Clearwater River begins in Broach Lake flowing southward to Lloyd Lake, then southeastward and westward crossing the Saskatchewan-Alberta border and eventually entering the Athabasca River, a segment of the Mackenzie River watershed at Fort McMurray, Alberta, a distance of about 295 km downstream from Lloyd Lake.

## Heritage Values

Information on the river's resources was gathered for a narrow primary study area centred on the river for Canadian Heritage Rivers System purposes and for a much

larger "study block" for potential provincial park consideration. The data was collected from published literature and maps, unpublished government reports and files and interviews with experts and non-experts with knowledge of the area. Field work was minimal; it included a brief aerial reconnaissance of the river. The consulting team was familiar with the river from previous canoe trips.

An evaluation of the significance of the identified theme and resource categories involved a subjective analysis based on the professional opinions of the consultants and the experts they contacted. Evaluation was carried out by applying the following factors which had been proposed in the draft "Guidelines" document: diversity, concentration, representativeness, uniqueness, naturalness/condition, and water quality, where applicable. Scores of high, medium and low were ascribed to each theme for each factor. Broadly based on this analysis, each theme category (e.g., flora) was then rated according to international, national, provincial, and regional level of significance.

## Natural Heritage Values

The study block contains a diverse array of landform features related to glacial erosion and deposition, and ongoing fluvial processes. While some of these are unique in the sense of not being found elsewhere in Saskatchewan, many are notable because they are excellent examples of a particular type of feature. In addition, the primary study area contains geological features clearly representing all four major eras of earth history.

The glacial drift which blankets most of the bedrock in this area displays the effects of large volume deposition directly from the ice front or by pro-glacial action of meltwater. The Cree Lake Moraine is a striking example of a "pause" in the ice sheet's retreat across the continent. There are glacio-fluvial outwash plains, meltwater channels, eskers and drumlins. The existence of pro-glacial lakes is evident from beaches, wave-cut benches, kames, and a kettled morainic plateau.

Below Warner Rapids, the river enters a large meltwater spillway. Spring-fed streams have produced highly dissected topography and active slumping, also of a scale not found elsewhere in northern Saskatchewan.

Within the Deschermie River-Contact Rapids reach are a number of particularly unique features, including numerous outcrops of Devonian dolomites and sandstones; a small "canyon" or gorge cut in sedimentary rocks; a sizeable fault-induced waterfall; a virtually abandoned waterfall course exposing highly polished bedrock and large (1.5 m wide, 2 m deep) cylindrical potholes; and a resistant ledge in Contact Rapids that vividly marks the interface between the Precambrian Shield and later sedimentary bedrock. Paterson et al. also indicated the presence of sinkholes and evidence of solution of carbonate rocks. Cretaceous bedrock outcrops also occur in the vicinity, and these include small amounts of lignite coal.

## Hydrology

The river leaves Lloyd Lake at 460 metres above sea level, through meanders and sections of braided stream flowing south-east. It drops 10 metres through several sets of rapids to the mouth of the Virgin River, 55 km downstream. There the river turns to flow southwest, breaching the Cree Lake Moraine marked by a boulder strewn river bed and the linear moraine streaking into the distance. From the Virgin River to below the highway bridge and Warner Rapids, the river passes over numerous sets of rapids and riffles, dropping another 50 metres in 56 km. There are sections of braided, curving and straight channels. Flow is steady to swift.

Shortly after this the Deschermie River which drains the area to the north joins the Clearwater which at this point becomes a classic example of an underfit stream in a broad, deep glacial river valley. For the next 38 km the channel varies from narrow to locally wide, broken by islands. Flow is steady to swift, often steeply descending over rapids, ledges, chutes and falls, dropping 80 metres in total.

From the base of Contact Rapids to the Alberta border, about 30 km, there is another 10 metre drop as the river meanders through braided and convoluted sections of channel in a steady to sluggish flow.

## Vegetation

Quite a number of rare plant species are known to occur and more are suspected to occur. Unfortunately, adequate in-situ botanical studies remain to be done. Dolomite outcrops lend themselves to the occurrence of various rare calciphilous species, known to be further north at Cluff Lake but as yet not recovered from the Clearwater area.

The subarctic climate and extensive areas of organic terrain produces a patterning of peatland in the form of *palsa* ridges and mounds. There is also a noticeable overlap in terms of intermixture of arctic-

subarctic species with those from more southerly habitats (Harms, 1978).

### Wildlife

Information on the presence of rare or endangered wildlife is also limited. Both bald eagles and osprey breed in the study block (Whiting, 1978; Weichel, 1974) which can be seen along the Clearwater. Godfrey (1970) considers these species to be endangered. Caspian terns are thought to occur infrequently, although this is unsubstantiated, and the area falls in the breeding range of the great gray owl.<sup>2</sup> White pelicans, a threatened species, nest in the area.

Wolverine are found in the area in very low numbers. This species is becoming increasingly rare in Canada. Woodland Caribou are an additional feature of interest.

### Landscape

Probably the most impressive landscape of the Clearwater is below Warner Rapids. Here the river enters a large meltwater spillway as large as any in Saskatchewan and the most northerly.

An attempt was made by Juurand in 1974 to quantify the analysis of the scenery using a version of Leopold's (1969) system. Each section was found to contain at least one site which received a rating of 31 or more out of a possible 40, while the Warner Rapids-Cascade Rapids (Alberta) section has two sites given 35 and 38 out of 40.

The natural history values meet the selection guidelines regarding the need to represent major stages and processes in the earth's evolutionary history. Four stages are represented: Precambrian, Palaeozoic, Mesozoic, and Quaternary.

There are significant examples of ongoing fluvial and geomorphological processes. These are especially evident in the formation of sand bars; active slumping and heavy dissection of till valley walls over unstable shales, aided by spring fed streams; and the meander of the river through the broad valley on the lower reaches. Biological processes reflect the role of fire in the watershed and also reflect the diverse landform and ongoing changes to it. Micro climates created by the large valley protect stands of large white spruce and balsam fir at the northern extension of their range and south facing valley walls maintain a unique northern grassland.

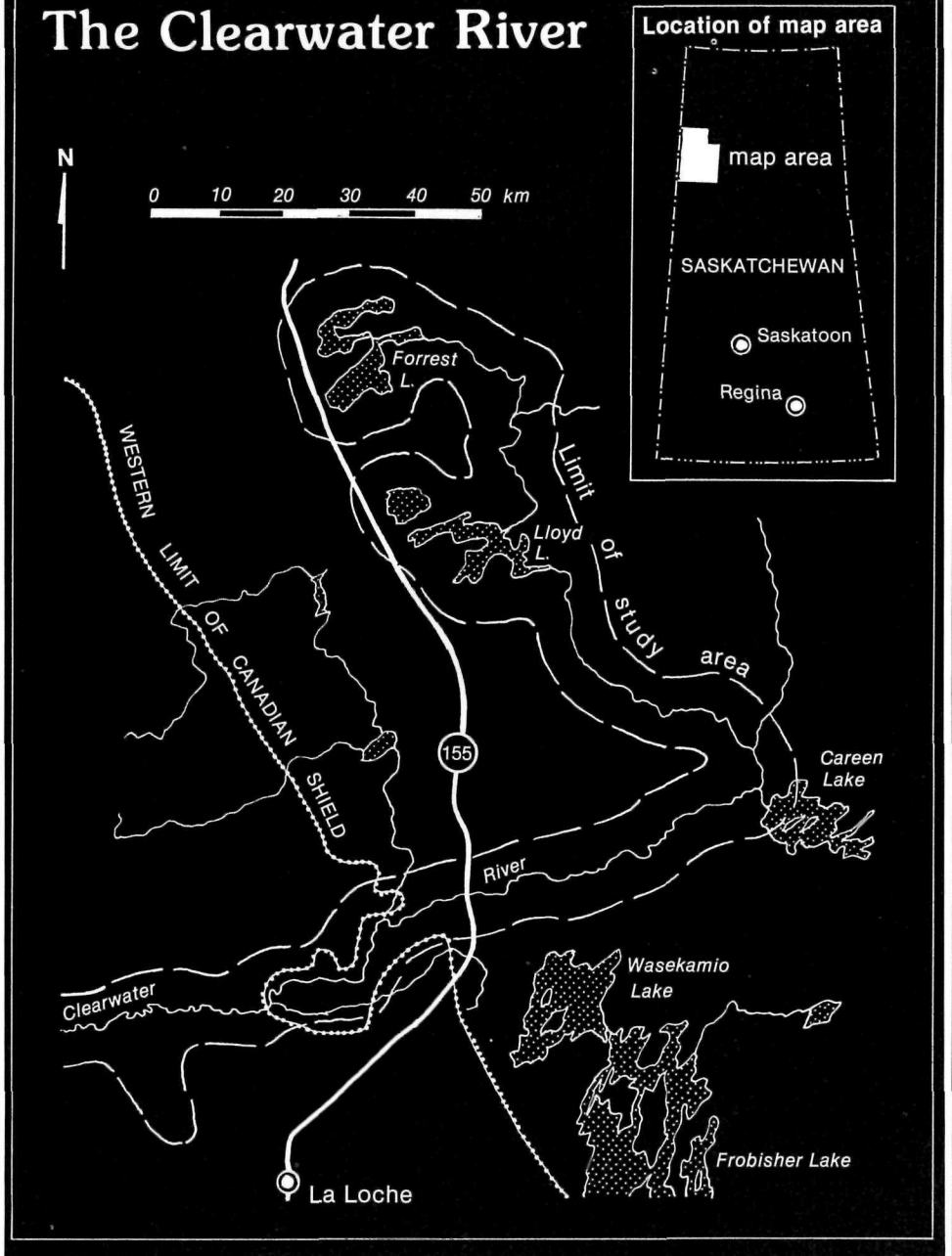
The river meets requirements regarding unique, rare, and outstanding formations or features or areas of exceptional natural beauty as mentioned above.

Extensive research has not been conducted regarding habitats of rare or endangered species of plants and animals, however, as indicated above, quite a number of rare plants are known to occur and several animal species found in the study area are regarded as rare or endangered.

<sup>1</sup> Pers. Comm. Dr. V. L. Harms and R. Wright regarding unpublished findings, Plant Ecology Department, University of Saskatchewan, 1981.

<sup>2</sup> Both listed as rare by Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), 1980.

# The Clearwater River



### Human Heritage Values

#### Native People

Prehistoric archaeological investigation for the Clearwater River sector is preliminary and scanty at best. The presence of aboriginal people is known from a cursory search for prehistoric sites on Portage La Loche with artifacts dating 200 years ago.<sup>3</sup> The excavation of these findings indicates that further investigation would present archaeological evidence to extend the record of habitation to at least 5,000 years ago.<sup>4</sup> Historic evidence indicates that during the prehistoric period Athapaskan-speaking Beaver Indians occupied the Clearwater River area and that during the late prehistoric period the Cree may have displaced this tribe, while an influx of the Chipewyan occurred much later.<sup>5</sup>

Three pictograph sites have been dis-

covered on the upper Clearwater River between Lloyd and Careen Lakes. An additional site has been rumoured to exist near the Saskatchewan-Alberta border, presumably at Whitemud Falls. These paintings use reddish pigment (ochre) symbols or shapes on vertical rock surfaces, a style similar to other Shield rock art, and are the farthest north and west documented sites in Saskatchewan.<sup>6</sup>

An interesting feature of these paintings may be in authorship. Rock paintings on the northern Shield are typically referenced to Algonkian-speakers, but one of the Clearwater River's sites is reported to be of Chipewyan origin.<sup>7</sup> This possibly, if corro-

<sup>3</sup> Epp and Jones, 1968.

<sup>4</sup> Steer, 1977.

<sup>5</sup> Pollock, 1978.

<sup>6</sup> Pers. Comm. T. Jones, Archaeological Consultant, 1982.

<sup>7</sup> Jones, 1981.

borated, may identify the area as having an important prehistoric role in defining boundaries of Shield and tundra Indians.

Along with fur trade goods and European contact, followed disease. Two outbreaks of smallpox in 1781 and 1838 had devastating effects on Saskatchewan Indians, especially the Cree. The decrease in the Cree population of the study block allowed for immigration of Athapaskan-speaking Chipewyan from their traditional ranges farther north, enticed by the traders to frequent the boreal forest and ultimately to provide more furs to the fur trade industry. By the end of the eighteenth century Chipewyans occupied the Clearwater area and southward to Cold Lake. Contact with the European culture and dependency on the trading posts caused major changes in the demography, religion, livelihood, and culture of the aboriginal Indian nations.

### Transportation

The portage across the height of land between the Clearwater River and Lac La Loche is one of the most significant portages of fur trading history.<sup>9</sup> Virtually every fur trader, explorer, surveyor, and scientist of the 100 years' active use of this trail passed this way to reach the Athabasca District. Some of the better known names are Peter Pond, Alexander Mackenzie, Thompson Frobisher, Peter Fidler, David Thompson, George Simpson, and John Macoun.

In 1936 the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada commemorated the portage by erecting a plaque on which the following was inscribed:

#### METHYE PORTAGE

The earliest trade route between eastward and northward flowing waters followed the Clearwater River and the Methye Portage. Discovered by Peter Pond in 1778 and used continuously for more than a century by fur-traders and explorers, including Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Sir John Franklin, and Sir George Simpson.<sup>9</sup>

This area at the southern terminus of the portage trail was dedicated by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as a Historic Site on August 17, 1974. A new plaque was unveiled which reads:

In 1778, Peter Pond became the first white man to cross the twelve-mile portage between Lac La Loche and Clearwater River, thus opening the rich Athabasca region to direct trade. For over 40 years, until the opening of the Edmonton-Fort Assiniboine Trail, this portage was the only practical link with the Athabasca, Peace and Mackenzie Rivers beyond. Many famous traders and explorers followed this route. In the 1820's the practice of hauling boats over the watershed was discontinued and a York boat terminus was established at each end of the portage.<sup>10</sup>

### Evaluation

Because of its history as the fur trade link between the Churchill, draining into Hudson's Bay, and the Athabasca system, the Clearwater is of outstanding importance for the transportation theme.

The river and Methye Portage are associated with major figures of Canadian history.

There are uncommon prehistoric pictographs found along the river including one which is possibly of Chipewyan origin.

Although very little archaeological work has been done on the Clearwater it is speculated that work may identify the area as having an important prehistoric role in defining boundaries of Shield and tundra Indians. Also of National significance is the post-contact cultural evolution which occurred.

The river environment with the exception of the highway crossing is virtually unchanged since prehistoric times.

*Pictographs,<sup>11</sup> possibly of Chipewyan origin, could define early boundaries of Shield and tundra Indians.*

### Recreational Values

Recreational activities in the study block basically include sport fishing, wilderness canoeing and camping, and very small amounts of cottaging and hunting.

Sport fishing has been, for some time, the principal recreational pursuit. Prior to the completion of the Cluff Lake road (Highway #155), access was by floatplane to lakes near the outfitters' camps. Road access has added the Clearwater River crossing and several lakes in the vicinity of Broach Lake to the number of areas where angling occurs and is increasing. Angling is largely a summer activity with peak use of outfitter facilities occurring in June and September. Three outfitters cater to anglers in the total study area. Total guest capacity, at any one time, is about 50. No outfitting camps are located on the section nominated.

The use of the Clearwater River as a recreational whitewater canoe route essentially began after 1972, when it was surveyed for suitability by both federal (Wild River Survey, Parks Canada) and provincial (Northrock Canoe Trail Survey, Saskatchewan Department of Culture and Youth) agencies. The province published a descriptive booklet on the section from Warner Rapids (road access) to Fort McMurray, Alberta (Canoe Route 40); a federal booklet covers the full trip beginning at Lloyd Lake outlet (fly-in). Numbers of persons annually canoeing the route and/or its optional segments, are not monitored. Ten to fifteen groups of canoeists were estimated for 1981. The number is low because the trip is rated as requiring whitewater skill and experience and because of the distance from population centres.

Only short sections are suitable for power boating. Kayaking and rafting potential is high. Primitive camping, angling, photography, wildlife and scenic viewing, nature and historical appreciation, and some swimming are peripheral activities of wilderness canoeists.

Facilities for non-local hunters are essentially absent. This, together with low game densities, year-round domestic hunting, access and mobility difficulties, and distance from population centres, results in very low amounts of recreational hunting in the study block.

Climate, frequent fire, inaccessibility and, most importantly, land use restrictions, combine to explain very low recreational/residential cabin development in the study block.

A very small number of people canoe from La Loche to hike the portage trail and view the Clearwater Valley, although this is also reportedly increasing. Topography and geologic formations providing locations for trails of various lengths are diverse, with a concentration of such features occurring near the lower reach. Requirements for a hiking trail network, such as water, firewood and campsite locations, are in generous supply.

At points a large river valley, the Clearwater, has high capability for spectacular viewing, recording and interpretation of waterfalls, gorges, rapids, and geophysical formations from four major geological time periods.

Since most winter recreation is facility-oriented, requiring accommodation and often trails and means of access and egress, the study area is presently low in ability, but highly capable biophysically, to sustain such recreation.

A 20-site campground exists at the Highway #155 over Warner Rapids.

Virtually all of the Clearwater River is capable of providing quality water travel by canoe, with the lower reaches (Warner Rapids to past the Alberta border) providing an exceptionally high-quality whitewater canoeing or kayaking experience.

Kayaking and presumably rafting potential is high as the river morphology includes challenging grades of white water. Sites for primitive camping are numerous on most sections while associated activities of fishing, landscape viewing, wildlife observation and photography are features attributable to the river valley quality. Short stretches of flat water interrupt successive lengths of fast water, thereby adding diversity to travel water.

Numerous rapids provide sites for wall-eye and arctic grayling foraging while shoreline habitats formed by bays and inlets harbour northern pike. Sport fishing capability of the river is good, with some sites offering extremely good fishing.

Sites suitable for camping occur in many areas, especially near rapids and falls. Capability to support primitive camping along the shorelines of the Clearwater is moderately high, with sections of a sensitive nature occasioned by unconsolidated or sandy soils.

In summary, the river possesses a combination of recreational opportunities and related natural values which together provide a capability for an outstanding recreational experience.

<sup>8</sup> Smythe, 1968.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Speech Notes, 1974.

<sup>11</sup> Sketches by B. Scott, in Archaeological Society Newsletter 1(3):6-7.

## River Integrity

The features which give high value in all three theme groups are distributed along the length of the river. The historical focus is on the lower reach of the study area particularly at and along Methye Portage. Natural heritage features are particularly outstanding in the lower reaches of the river below Warner Rapids, while recreational value is most applicable from Lloyd Lake downstream.

Although very little water quality data is available specifically for the Clearwater River, recent investigations of headwater lakes give an indication of general parameters. Quality was found to be excellent in all headwater lakes examined in terms of oxygen content, clarity, total dissolved solids (TDS) and nutrients.<sup>12</sup>

On the river itself water quality is apt to vary somewhat from place to place and with time of year. This variance is not with respect to purity so much as in terms of amount of suspended solids and organic detritus. Tributary drainage includes a fair amount of organic terrain where water may be slightly acidic. Turbidity associated with erosion and sediment transport will be highest during peak flows, in areas of meanderings, and following intense or widespread forest fires.

<sup>12</sup> Pers. comm. E. L. Dean, Fisheries Research, Saskatchewan Department of Tourism and Renewable Resources.

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# Progress in the North

In addition to the two rivers nominated by the Federal Government in the northern National Parks, described earlier, (the South Nahanni and Asek), the Governments of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon are undertaking evaluations for potential nominations.

A co-operative study of forty-one N.W.T. rivers was carried out by Parks Canada, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, and Tourism and Parks, Government of the Northwest Territories. Based on the objectives and principles of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, a thematic analysis system was designed that should have, with some adjustments, applicability for all jurisdictions in Canada. The most prominent forty-one N.W.T. rivers were analysed for their heritage values of natural characteristics, human values and recreational attributes. To allow for current alienations

and management implications the rivers were assessed, independently of heritage values, for their suitability for inclusion in a heritage river system. Finally taking heritage values and management suitability into account, a selection of the top ranking N.W.T. rivers for heritage purposes was compiled. The analysis is quite thorough, involving heritage themes and sub-themes, numerical scoring, indexing, and weighting.

A report of the study is available and may be obtained free of charge from:

Division of Tourism and Parks,  
Government of the Northwest  
Territories  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2L9

Using a similar scheme of evaluation it seems likely that a river will be nominated in the Yukon later this year.



# Canoeing on Newfoundland's Main River

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Over a decade ago, Parks Canada began an ambitious program of surveying what remained of wilderness rivers in Canada. Although Canada is perceived by many to have unlimited wildlands and wilderness rivers, by the mid-1970's, 86 of Canada's 178 major rivers had been modified for hydroelectric, flood control or irrigation purposes. Many of these remaining rivers were surveyed by Parks Canada over a three-year period. In 1974, the Parks Canada survey teams selected 10 rivers—the Stikine and the Chilcotin-Fraser in British Columbia, the Coppermine in the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, the Churchill in Manitoba, the Attawapiskat in Northern Ontario, the Restigouche in New Brunswick, the Clearwater in Alberta, the Manitou in Quebec, and the Main in Newfoundland—which they considered to have the highest priority for preservation in a national wilderness river reserve system. This article describes the river Parks Canada chose as Newfoundland's finest remaining wilderness river.

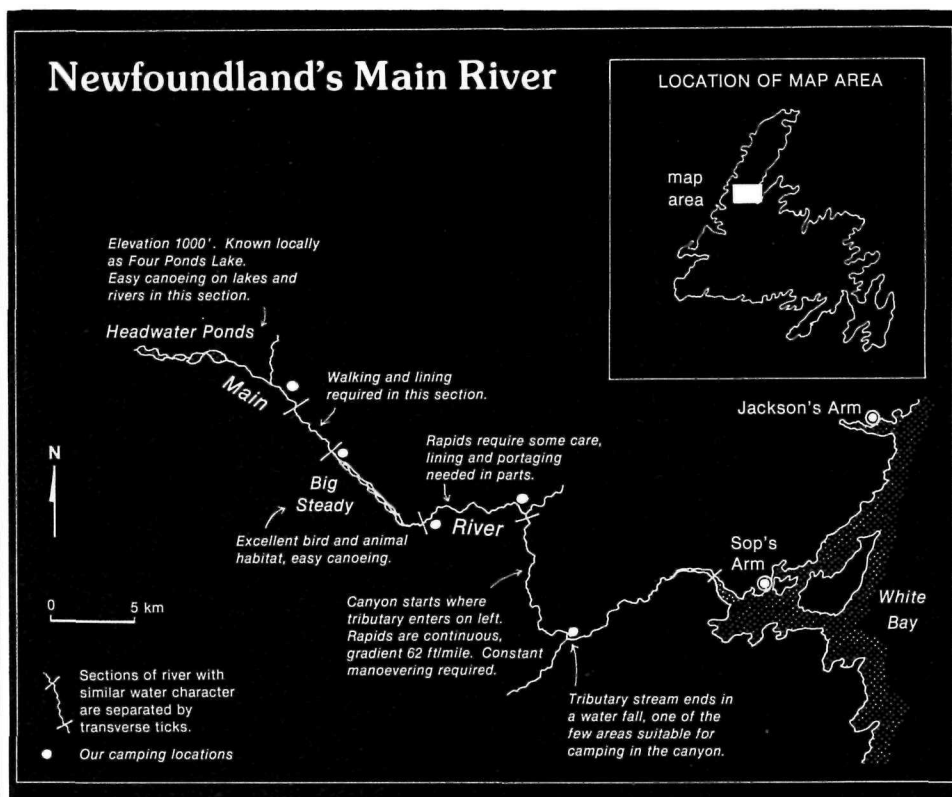
Access to the Main River is restricted to float plane at the present time. A short 45-minute trip from Deer Lake brought our group of four paddlers to the headwater lake (Four Ponds) which was the beginning of our canoe trip. From the headwater lakes, the river flows 55 kilometres (33 miles) through the heart of the Long Range Mountains to Sop's Arm, a community on White Bay. Although not a long river, the Main contains such a diversity of wilderness and canoeing experiences that it is comparable, in many respects, to much longer wild rivers in other parts of Canada.

Four Ponds Lake lies at the edge of the drainage divide and the surrounding mountains provide the interested canoeist with relatively accessible tundra-like barrens. Hiking into these mountains provides not only a glimpse of the canoe route ahead, but scenic views of rugged Long Range Mountains. After a hike along the divide, our first day's paddle brought us through the

first three headwater lakes, which are linked by short stretches of faster water. Speckled trout and Atlantic salmon can be fished in these waters; salmon licences are required, however, since the Main River is a scheduled salmon river and falls under regulations set down by the Canadian Department of Fisheries (See summary). The river leaving the lakes is easily canoed, although lining and hauling of the canoe over ledges were required in some places. The heavily wooded side hills and clear water provide a picturesque canoeing scene in this section. Shortly thereafter, Four Ponds Brook joins the upper Main River. This section known locally as Jack Joe's Steady,

seemed to be a likely area for salmon fishing and thus, we elected to make camp on a grassy island. It was not long after we wet our lines that the first salmon of the trip was taken. With a full moon rising over the tall spruce trees, we went to bed anticipating the river ahead.

We awoke to a light drizzle and quickly donned our rain gear. Brian, our intrepid fisherman, taking a few early morning casts, quickly caught salmon number two. Although we complained that the poor weather hadn't been forecast, shortly after we began to paddle the weather began to improve, and by afternoon we were in bright sunshine. This change in weather was a fortunate occurrence since most of the day was spent walking in knee to thigh depth water hauling and lifting our canoe over the boulder-infested water. The frequency of boulders, both submerged and above the high water, prevents lining and water levels would need to be much higher than when our group was there (early August) before this section could be canoed. The cool water, the slippery rounded rocks and the frustrating rock-adhering property of our aluminum Grumman canoe made this 7-kilometre stretch very exhausting. Consequently, when we finally reached the slower, deeper water of Big Steady, we began to look for a suitable campsite. The grassy parkland setting, a botanical rarity in Newfoundland, provided many possible sites and we quickly pitched our tents and started preparing for dinner. We watched a lone woodland caribou make its way slowly across the river and on to the island we had camped on. Sniffing the air, the caribou noticed our scent and moved quickly into the nearby spruce forest. We had expected



the caribou to be higher in the mountains in early August and considered ourselves lucky to see one so close to our camp. As we would discover over the next two days, this Big Steady section is rather like an island in a sea of spruce and fir. The frequent flooding and reduced channel gradient have produced an island-studded parkland setting which is not only scenically attractive but which is ideal habitat for a variety of animals as well—a unique area in Newfoundland.

From an ecological standpoint, Big Steady provides critical habitat for wildlife and waterfowl. Newfoundland is characterized by relatively unproductive terrain because of its present climate and past geologic (ice age) history. Soils are generally thin and the cool maritime climate has created a vegetation cover that grows slowly and is not widely varied. Enriched sites such as floodplains and deltaic areas are more highly productive. However, in Newfoundland these landforms are relatively rare. Big Steady represents an unusual 15 km<sup>2</sup> enriched floodplain area.

Wildlife are obviously attracted to these more productive sites, and the moose density of Big Steady is estimated to be one of the highest on the island. Caribou, too, utilize this parkland area, although these animals are more commonly found at higher elevations. Biologists estimate that roughly 75-100 pairs of Canada Geese breed in Big Steady and good duck habitat abounds. For instance, Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Red-breasted Merganser, and Common Goldeneye are known to frequent this area. On the third day of our trip, we saw 8 moose, 50-60 geese, many ducks, and a caribou.

Big Steady is comprised of many grassy islands and, combined with the surrounding hills that rise 600 feet above the river floor, it creates a very attractive setting. The dry grassy areas provide unlimited campsites, and canoeing is easy since the stream bed is composed of small gravels and the gradient is slight (12 ft./mi.). Our group spent two days in this area, exploring side channels and one major tributary creek which flows through this meadow landscape.

Our fourth day dawned sunny, and we were anxious to move into the more challenging sections of the river. The river drops 40 ft./mi. in the next section (5 miles), and, with the numerous boulders in the channel, the rapids began to require some care. A few short portages were required and two rapids were lined. As in the Big Steady area, grassy areas dotted with wild irises occur, but they are generally smaller and less frequent. We easily found another excellent camping spot—grassy and open to the wind. We were blessed with generally sunny skies and moderate winds for the duration of our trip, and this made travelling enjoyable and minimized the mosquito and black fly problem. That evening, at an adjoining creek, we quickly caught 25 speckled trout, which supplied us with a late evening snack and breakfast.

Up to this point, canoeing had generally

been easy, although care and scouting of rapids from shore were needed in some cases. However, we were all anticipating the following canyon section, since the topographic maps showed a constant gradient of 64 ft./mi. (for 12 miles), close to the upper limit for open canoes. So it was with great trepidation that we packed our equipment into the canoes to start our fifth day—making doubly sure that clothing and sleeping bags were well waterproofed, ensuring a handy spare paddle and securing all gear by rope. We had camped about ¾ kilometre from the start of the canyon, and, after a small portage, we could hear the rapids that were heralding our arrival to the top of the canyon.

Immediately the action was fast and furious, since the steep gradient, combined with a boulder-studded channel, required constant manoeuvring. Our canoe (an aluminum Grumman) proved to be very durable throughout the trip but had the annoying characteristic of hanging up on rocks. This caused our first misadventure, and, as the bow caught on a submerged rock, the stern was quickly swung around by the current. Before we could react, the canoe had broached and began filling up with water. Fortunately, we could easily stand in the river bed and, despite the current, we managed to get the canoe to shore with no harm done.

The river then began to flow through a steep-walled part of the canyon with deeper and faster water. This section proved to be very exciting canoeing, with most rapids generally runnable. One short portage was needed to by-pass a particularly rough section. The river twists and turns throughout much of the canyon, and this restricts view of the river ahead. This necessitates scouting from shore in many cases, since the best route is often not visible from the water.

Contrary to the abundant and comfortable campsites in the upper sections of the river, the canyon offers very few areas for camping. The only site we were able to find was across from a beautiful waterfall from a tributary brook. Here relatively flat bedrock provided the best spot we could find. A large salmon pool occurs here as well, and we were able to catch a combination of trout and salmon for breakfast.

The final day in the canyon was similar to the previous day. Canoeing continued to be difficult and both canoes swamped on different occasions. We often encountered standing waves 1-3 feet in height and this necessitated frequent emptying of the canoes at the end of rapid sections. The canyon gradually becomes less steep, and the valley floor begins to widen. Finally the sea could be smelled, transmission lines crossed the river, and we knew the end must be close at hand. We finished with some easy rapids, floated slowly by a salmon fisherman, and then pulled out under a metal bridge that spans the Main River delta. A provincial park is located adjacent to the river and the community of Sop's Arm is located nearby. This community is con-

nected by road to the Trans-Canada Highway and provides a logical pick-up point.

In summary, our impressions of the Main River were much the same as those of the initial Parks Canada survey done in the early 1970's. The diversity of wildlife and the wilderness setting, combined with an exciting canoeing experience, indicate that the Main River and adjacent lands are a very significant natural resource. In particular, the Big Steady area warrants special consideration since it provides excellent wildlife and waterfowl habitat. It is hoped that the Main River will eventually be given the heritage river status it so justly deserves.

## Main River Summary

### Access

By float plane to one of the upper lakes (Four Ponds Lake) that form the headwaters of a tributary to the Main River (Grid Reference 720275 on Map 12H/14). Available at South Brook on Deer Lake.

### Egress

The community of Sop's Arm on White Bay.

### Trip Length

33 miles; required time—minimum of 5 days, ideally 6-8 days to allow time to explore, hike, and fish.

### Campsites

Numerous in all sections except the canyon. We found only one suitable site in this portion, located roughly midway in the canyon, opposite the waterfall of a tributary stream.

### Permits

None except if fishing. Since the Main is a scheduled salmon river, it is regulated by the Federal Department of Fisheries. At the date of writing, fly fishing only is permitted with a daily limit of 2 salmon.

### Support Services

None; this is a wilderness river in its entirety.

### Skills Required

Basic wilderness camping and advanced canoeing skills. Canoeing difficulty depends on water level but in mid-summer is grade 2 to grade 3. Much manoeuvring in rapids is required.

### Maps

Available from Canadian Map Office.

Department of Energy, Mines  
& Resources  
615 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E9

1:50,000 maps 12H/14W Main River  
12H/14E Main River  
12H/11E Silver Mountain  
12H/15W Jackson's Arm  
White Bay

### Climate

The best months for canoeing the Main River would be June, July, August, and September. Paddlers should be prepared for highly variable temperatures, and good rain wear is required. The water is relatively warm, a consideration since some mid-channel walking with canoes was needed in shallow spots.

# A Modest Proposal: The Terra Nova River

**Stanley Sparkes**, is an English and History teacher at Glovertown High School, Glovertown, Newfoundland.

The true Newfoundlander—the woman and man of the outports—throughout the year followed a variety of dangerous callings which built up characters of remarkable strength. Of these true Newfoundlanders (Maritime Archaic Indians, Dorset Eskimos, Beothucks, Micmacs, Europeans) the modes of living, trapping habits, fishing methods, kitchen approaches, fishing, and logging ways seem to be little known. A genuine, honest attempt to make a heritage river system which reflects the way of life of the outport Newfoundlanders would receive tremendous public support and create many recreational and tourist dollars.

Such a heritage river project should include buildings, floats, tools, utensils, beads, cooking gear, and fancy clothes, which illustrate as best we can recapture it, the way of life of the outport Newfoundlanders named above. Such a heritage river project should include props and sets to show such scenes as: Maritime Archaic Indian caribou kill; Dorset Eskimo sealhunt; Beothuck burial; Micmac canoeing (we could have the real thing); outport European jackladder in action.

The Terra Nova River is ideal for such a heritage river project. Relatively unpolluted, not too cluttered by manmade impound-

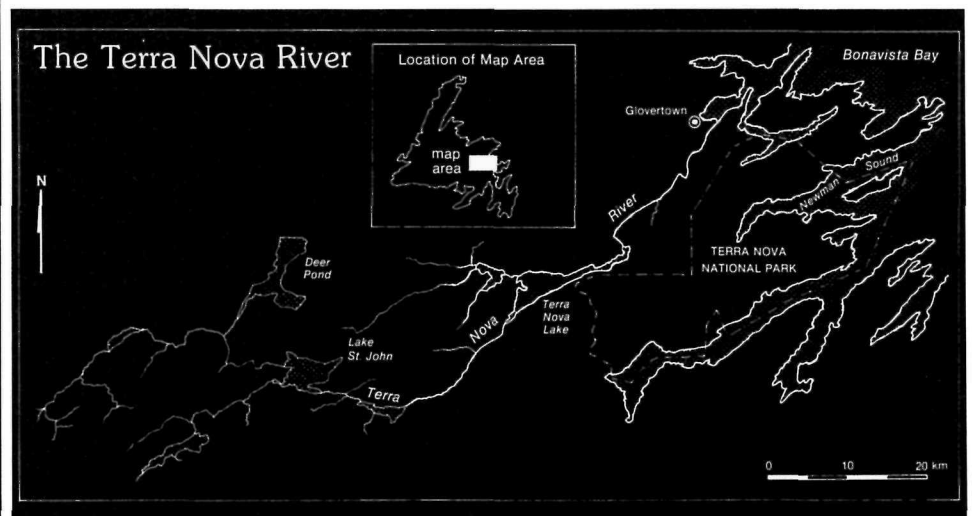
ments, wild, scenic and beautiful, it provides many byways and special places for heritage projects. Flowing near the Terra Nova National Park, it has been the beloved home of the Maritime Archaic Indians, the Dorset Eskimos, the Beothucks, the Micmacs, and lately those whom we may loosely call the European outporters. Nowhere else on earth did this particular mix of people ever

come together or follow one another in the land which may hold the key to our lost *Atlantis*. An emphasis on the romance and the mystic appeal of this fascinating part of our imaginative past would draw millions annually to the Terra Nova. (It is even possible to make the case that St. Brendan came here as did the Vikings. Little from the world of the scholar and the archaeologist will support this theory, but people are not attracted so much by the truthful as by the romantic.)

My proposal is modest. The Province of Newfoundland should immediately enact enabling legislation to secure protected status for the Terra Nova River so that heritage projects of worth and dignity can be begun by individuals, towns, the province, and the federal government. Federal-provincial, as well as provincial-municipal, discussions should take place regarding the thorny question of jurisdictional responsibility until agreement is reached which makes the Terra Nova a national heritage river. The final agreement in this intensely complex issue should be a cost-shared program of heritage projects, including those briefly described above.

Overall principles agreed upon from the beginning should include:

- The river will be a municipal-provincial-federal park, not a national or a provincial park. Parks Canada will have responsibility for, and jurisdiction over, byways and special places heritage projects. The province will have responsibility for most other projects. The interested municipalities (Terra Nova, Charlottetown, Traytown, Cull's Harbour, and Glovertown in particular) will have the input which corresponds to their willingness to finance specific projects. Individuals will be encouraged to do the most projects of all, always providing they follow the guidelines set down in the governmental agreement.
- The prehistory as well as the history of the area will be emphasized. To let the world know how these early east coast Canadians lived will be the major theme.



- The significance of rivers in our journey to Canadianism will be highlighted. The road to inland caribou, the place for salmon, the spring drive: these will receive emphasis.
- High intensity recreational activities and low intensity ones will be well mixed. Camping, swimming, canoeing, bunk-housing, scouting, guiding, orienteering, hiking, snowshoeing, fishing, hunting, and berry-picking will be promoted with vigour and commercial aplomb. The ecological integrity of the area will be enhanced by preservation and cultivation. The area's earth science, life science, and great riverine variety will be studied and taught to students and tourists interested.
- The cultural and esthetic values of the people now living in the area will be preserved and promoted.
- Long-term, make-work projects will be a major feature of the park program. Tourism will be the number one priority. The program will attempt to attract people from all over the world. There will

be a special attempt to attract those interested in the academic aspects of the area's fascinating history and prehistory. However, salmon enhancement, other fish-farming projects, community pasture projects of a heritage nature, berry-picking, hunting, and fishing will be given weight.

Clearly there is a case for a heritage river program on the Terra Nova River. Alternate development schemes would destroy the beauty and the heritage potential of this most easterly of Canadian rivers. National heritage status, and consequent national support, could place a finer balance on the preservation/development status the river will achieve with the passage of time. The Terra Nova is full of potential. The people in the Terra Nova area are imaginative and ready for the changes that will come to the river they have loved and used for so long—ready for Canada's sake. Canada deserves a heritage river exactly where the Terra Nova is. The Terra Nova is, after all, Canada's closest river link with its European heritage.



CREDIT: K. H. DEICHMANN



# A Tribute to the Saint John

*K. Henrik Deichmann, is a resource management advisor with Parks Canada.*

The lower Saint John, the last 90 miles or so, is an impressive waterway. It's tidal and wide for all this distance. This estuary-delta forms part of one of eastern North America's major river systems. Taken in toto, the river is remarkable for its significant spring freshet, its lush intervale lands and islands, river skirting forested ridges, villages among the farms caught in the time warp of the 1783 Loyalist colonization.

The River was the "Woolastook" to the Malecites. Their name simply stated meant "goodly"; good to travel on, with fish and game aplenty, good for berries and nuts and with intervale where excellent crops of beans, corn, and squash could be grown. Their bark canoes would look frail to us, but for the owners they represented an efficient and practical mode of travel.

## Enter Spring

In the pleasant musty dankness and warmth of a root cellar, potato eyes send forth hopeful sprouts, confirming for the countryman, the calendar's promise of longer days. Along the river's bank, the shore cakes rise and heave, answering to the increasing pressure of the water, and foretelling the impending freshet. Often for many days nothing seems to happen. Then suddenly in April, sometimes early, sometimes in the last days of the month, the last ice rents and splits, the water surges, spilling over low banks. Once the crest is reached, the decline is almost imperceptible.

Further up the bank, lingering snow drifts gather a yellow caste of alder pollen. Soon to follow are the crimson blooms of the red

maple, then those of silver maple and beech.

Each dawn brings a night's load of fresh migrants. Their bright breeding plumage colours the beginning to leaf-out tree crowns. Their challenging songs of territoriality are an auditory stimulus. Beneath this activity and amid the decay of the discarded leaves of seasons past, sun-loving trout lilies, spring beauties, and Dutchman's breeches telescope their annual cycle in a race against the shade of a complete leaf canopy overhead.

Back in the River, the brown bouillon of the freshet triggers spawning schools of gaspereau, shad, sea sturgeon, and striped bass. This environment is not acceptable to salmon and sea trout, fish which literally torpedo through on the way to clearer and colder tributary streams.

## Summer's Greening

As the freshet subsides, black ducks are well along in the 28-day sojourn of incubation. Where once there was a moat of deep water around the stub next, all is shallow and seething with insect life by the time the ducklings emerge.

Intervale trees respond to the push in their roots from the saturated soils, being heated by the now friendly sun; the growth is phenomenal.

When the leaves on the birches are as big as a mouse's ear, it's time to plant the peas! is a popular River Valley saying. Heralded-in, is a whole sequence of discing, drilling, and seed-setting. The summer crop routine has come into action.

Summer flow water levels permit an easier passage for the seven cable ferries, that shuttle to and fro at strategic points along the lower River. Where once proud paddlewheelers churned and sturdy Johnny woodboats freighted brimful loads of firewood, lumber, and other products to market in Saint John city, the present day River is the road for tug-towed gigantic chip barges. On "the Reach" and Kennebecasis Bay, the bright white triangles of sails brighten many summer afternoons and weekends.

Many of the River's ecological problems were brought to the fore by studies of the Saint John River Basin Board formed in 1970. In the tradition of environmental awareness, and involvement, the Atlantic Centre for the Environment sent a flotilla of young people by canoe from source to salt, the finale being the trip through the Reversing Falls Rapids out to Saint John Harbour and the sea.

Summer's at a zenith when potatoes come to blossom, and the cabbages start heading. Out in the meadows, the tires of the wagons squish out with the freight of the harvest. The odour of drying and dying chlorophyll is intoxicating! By early August apples in valley orchards blush a modest pink.

## The Year's Fall

One late August morning, the dawn will be refreshingly cool and the wind a bit northerly. A hint? A warning? There are other signs; a solitary red leaf in an otherwise massive green crown of a maple. Fall is on the way... summer is on the wane.

Armies of swallows make up impressive flocks along insect-rich stretches of the Valley. This is a staging in preparation for an exodus. Less conspicuous are the smaller flocks, but still, the steady drift of warblers and flycatchers that stick close to the shrubbery represents many birds. With the first frosts, blue-winged teal families coalesce into larger companies prior to moving down river to the Fundy saltmarshes, in preparation for a south-oriented migratory movement. Later in Indian Summer, northern bred Golden-eye and Scaup take up traditional staging haunts, where they'll cling till the wintery blasts and the sealing of ice drive them on.

When everything is bleached with dripping November rains, and the last stubborn red oak leaves reluctantly flutter down, the cheer and the cleansing of a layer of bright, new snow would be welcome. It arrives. The year comes full circle.

## Heritage of the Saint John River; Some Highlights

### Original Peoples

Cow Point Site, Grand Lake, 4,000 years before present.

Meductic—important village-fort stockade of the Malecites, located below Woodstock until about 1770, when most of the inhabitants moved to Aukpaque, a few miles above Fredericton.

### Early Europeans—Discovery Phase

European discovery of the Saint John River by Champlain on June 21, 1604.

First European settlement in New Brunswick on the Saint John by Capt. Merveille, St. Malo in 1611 at Isle Emenenic (Caton's Island).

Major fort and trading post at the mouth of the River; Fort LaTour, ca. 1630.

Fort Jemseg, first fort/post on the River proper (est. 1659).

### Human History—Establishment Phase to Confederation of 1867

"Johnny Woodboats," a broad-beamed sailboat meant for cargo, became common in the early 1800's (a distinctive St. John craft).

The famous 400-mile march from Fredericton to Quebec City was completed in the dead of winter by the 104th Regiment in 1813.

The *Reindeer*, the first steamboat in the world to be powered by a compound engine, an invention of Valley resident Benjamin Tibbets, was launched in 1842.

The first steam sawmill was set up in New Brunswick in Portland (now Saint John), in 1822.

*The Saint John News*, the first penny newspaper in the British Empire, began publication in Saint John in 1838.

The "main John" Glasier, a famous pioneer lumberman, began exploiting the pine on the upper River in the late 1700's. He was the first to drive logs successfully over Grand Falls. While Glasier was real, there's strong evidence that the legendary folk hero of the lumberwoods, Paul Bunyan, began in New Brunswick!

The Province of New Brunswick was officially declared in 1784, as being separate from Nova Scotia. (The province almost was called "New Ireland.")

### Other Aspects of Interest

Covered Bridges: New Brunswick, particularly the Saint John Valley area, is the last major reservoir of these structures in Atlantic Canada, including the world's longest (at Hartland).

Poet's Corner: Fredericton has been so-called, mainly in recognition of Sherman, Carman, and Roberts.

University of New Brunswick: established in 1800, has a building which is the oldest in continuous use of any university in Canada.

Mactaquac Fish Culture Station: A large salmon hatchery and rearing facility, established in 1967, as a mitigation for the loss of habitat brought about by the Mactaquac Hydro Project.

Ducks Unlimited projects: Since 1980, several major barriers, and habitat enhancements have been put in place in the valley.

Major Parks and Recreation areas: Mactaquac Provincial Park (trails, wildlife,

interesting flora), Woolastook Provincial Park (wildlife display), Odell Park, Fredericton (old growth hemlocks, beeches, maples), Currie Mountain (Hepatic, large pine and hemlock).

(from Hinds, 1983)

Short-nosed Sturgeon  
Atlantic Blue-back Herring  
Gray Tree Frog  
Least Bittern  
Wood Duck  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Black Tern  
Whip-Poor-Will  
Great-crested Flycatcher  
Wood Thrush  
Northern Oriole  
Indigo Bunting

Red and Silver Maple along the Saint John.

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### List of Rare and Unusual Flora on the Lower St. John River

Wild Leek/Canada Garlic	<i>Allium canadense</i>
Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium viride</i>
Small-flowered Bittercress	<i>Cardamine parviflora</i>
Sedges	<i>Carex hirtifolia/flaccidula/saxatilis</i>
Waterwort	<i>Elatine minima</i>
Few-flowered Spikerush	<i>Eleocharis pauciflora</i>
Rush	<i>Juncus subtilis</i>
Whorled Loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia quadifolia</i>
Jointweed	<i>Polygonella articulata</i>
Pondweeds	<i>Potamogeton filliformis var borealis P. friesii</i>
Rugel's Plantain	<i>Plantago rugelii</i>
Polygala; Fringed/Red	<i>Polygala paucifolia/sanguinea</i>
Halbert-leaved Tearthumb	<i>Polygonum artiofolium var. pubescens</i>
Mountain Mint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>
Cursed Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus sceleratus var. multifidus</i>
Black Snakeroot	<i>Sanicula gregaria + S. trifolia</i>
Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga paniculata</i>
Bulrush	<i>Scirpus pendulus</i>
Blue-stemmed Goldenrod	<i>Solidago caesia</i>
Massachusetts Fern	<i>Thelypteris simulata</i>
Bladderwort	<i>Utricularia minor</i>
Northern Woodsia	<i>Woodsia alpina</i>

# British Columbia's Rivers: The Fight for Preservation Continues

**MARK ANGELO** is an Instructor in forest recreation at the British Columbia Institute of Technology, Burnaby, British Columbia.

British Columbia's clean, wild, and free-flowing rivers are one of the most cherished and yet physically abused natural resources in the province. Ideally then, one would hope that all levels of government would strive for the development of a balanced river management policy. Such a policy could include programs that analyze development options for some river areas, but at the same time, give equal importance to non-development options for selected rivers that are to remain in an unimpeded condition. This approach seems both logical and attainable. Yet progress towards developing a policy in B.C. that recognizes

the non-development alternative has been slow.

The provincial government has been promising a "Provincial Rivers Policy" since 1979, but presently all that exists is a discussion paper that outlines a proposal which seems to have few teeth. British Columbia to date has also refused to participate in the Heritage Rivers Program which is a joint federal-provincial initiative that is making great progress in other provinces and the territories. As a result, there is still no legislative or administrative vehicle by which rivers can be preserved in their natural state.

Despite this however, there has been some progress in recent years in the areas of public awareness and river management. In 1980, for example, a "Riverfest" was held in Vancouver which attracted 2,000 people and did much to inform the public of the dangers our rivers face. This event was extremely successful and an "International Congress on Trails and Rivers" is already in the planning stages for 1986.

In 1981 the Outdoor Recreation Council was successful in lobbying the provincial government to declare the last Sunday in September as "Rivers Day," thus formally recognizing the historical, cultural, and recreational significance of rivers in B.C. Since then, river clean-up projects have been organized annually on this day throughout the province, and last year several thousand people went to work on more than two dozen rivers.

Regarding river management, there have also been some improvements in recent years. For example, commercial river outfitters now have to meet certain equipment and training standards to obtain permits to run rivers such as the Fraser, Thompson, Chilcotin, and Tetshashini. This was long overdue because commercial traffic on these rivers grew dramatically in the 1970's and was largely unregulated.

However, much remains to be done. Recreational river use is continuing to grow at a rapid pace and already adverse environmental and social impacts are starting to occur on some rivers. In response to this, the river outfitters within the province have collectively called for carrying capacity studies on selected rivers in anticipation of the need to regulate traffic at some point in time in the future. Such regulation may include the spacing of departure times, the assignment of camping sites and perhaps even the development of mechanisms by which use can be limited.

These are all important issues but the real dilemma in B.C. remains the lack of a vehicle or process by which a river can be preserved. In this province we have one of the greatest river resources in the world and yet we continue to abuse it with increasing regularity. Such threats range from hydro development on the Stikine and the Kemano to pollution and industrial development on the Fraser and the Thompson, and from urban development on the Seymour to estuary development on the Cowichan.

One can go on and on with specific examples but the conclusion is obvious. We must realize that rivers do have an inherent value as part of the natural environment and they should not be discounted simply because they flow unimpeded and unexploited to the sea. Simply stated, we are talking about a balance between wilderness and civilization—a balance that necessitates both an understanding of resource development on some rivers while appreciating the need to preserve others. If this realization does not occur soon in this province, we may find ourselves talking about the great river resource we once had, but let slip away.

# Wild and Scenic Rivers of the United States

**E. GLENN CARLS**, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Recreation and Parks at Texas A&M University. Previously (1975-1979), he was a member of the faculty of the Department of Recreation, University of Waterloo, Ontario.

"It was kind of solemn, drifting down the big, still river, laying on our backs looking up at the stars, and we didn't ever feel like talking loud, and it wasn't often that we laughed—only a little kind of a low chuckle."

Huckleberry Finn as quoted by Mark Twain

In the four years that have elapsed since a companion article to this one was published in the Spring, 1980 issue of *Park News*, the U.S. wild and scenic rivers system has grown significantly. At that writing, the Wild and Scenic River Act had been in effect for a dozen years, and the system included 28 river segments with a total of 2,317.75 miles. Today, the system has tripled in

size to a total of 60 river segments and 6,935.75 miles (Table 1).

To review briefly, the purpose of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 is to protect rivers with "outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values" and preserve them in a "free-flowing condition." Contrary to its title, the legislation actually provides for three kinds of rivers: wild, scenic, and recreational. These are defined in the legislation as follows:

## Wild River Areas

Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds

or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted; these represent vestiges of primitive America.

## Scenic River Areas

Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by road.

## Recreational River Areas

Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. It should be noted too, that most rivers in the system are in reality sections of streams rather than entire rivers protected from beginning to end.

## Recent Additions

Growth of the national rivers systems since 1980 has come in two big chunks. First, passage of the Alaska Lands Act of 1980 created a bonanza for natural resource protection in the nation's newest, biggest, and most resource rich state. In addition to mammoth new areas of national parks, designated wilderness, national forests, and wildlife refuges, the act also provided for a total of 3,011 miles of rivers, in 25 sections, in the national rivers system. The significance of the Alaskan rivers is obvious when you compare the system before and after their addition. The Alaska windfall more than doubled the existing mileage in 1980 from 2,317.75 miles to a total 5,328.75 miles of free-flowing, federally protected waters. Thirteen of the 25 sections are administered by the National Park Service, 7 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and 5 by the Bureau of Land Management, reflecting in each case the federal land holdings through which the rivers flow.

The second big chunk came in 1981 when five new California river segments were added to the system: The Klamath, Trinity, Eel, Lower American, and Smith. These rivers total 1,235 miles, and they increased the system by yet another 22 per cent.

Rivers can be added to the system in two ways: (1) by act of Congress, as in the case of the Alaskan rivers, or (2) through designation by the Secretary of the Interior when a river is nominated by the governor of a state. This second method was used in admitting the five new California rivers. In most cases, these rivers, while protected by federal legislation, are managed by the states that nominated them (e.g., the Allagash Wilderness Waterway is managed by the State of Maine). In California, however, four of the five new rivers (i.e., the Klamath, Trinity, Eel, and Smith) are jointly managed by the state and federal agencies with associated land holdings.

## Where To From Here

Currently, some 55 river sections are under active review for possible inclusion in the



wild and scenic rivers system (13 have been forwarded to Congress for final approval). In addition, 24 states have adopted protected rivers systems based on the federal model. These state rivers, like state parks, are important for the protection of natural resources significant at the state level but not necessarily qualified for national status. In short, there is a commitment to river preservation, and the system continues to grow. This is not a time for complacency, however.

While there is still a healthy supply of rivers available for protection in the United States, other uses (e.g., agricultural, domestic, and industrial) will demand an increasing share of the natural rivers' cornucopia. Many obvious candidates for national river status are already unqualified. The lower Mississippi, for example, has been locked, dammed, leveed, channelled, and polluted beyond recognition as a natural river (although 466 miles of the upper Mississippi have been nominated for federal protection in Minnesota). Farther west, the flow and ecology of the Colorado River has been altered fundamentally by Glen Canyon Dam. No modern river runner will ever know the Colorado experienced by John Wesley Powell on his historic expedition through the Grand Canyon in 1869. Come to think of it, there are probably few modern river runners who would measure up to a trip on Powell's Colorado.

All of us are painfully aware, too, that rivers are open ecological systems. Pollution from a multitude of sources is an insidious and pervasive threat to all rivers, even those protected by the full force and authority of law. In the United States, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 and the Clean Water Act of 1977 are important first steps in the control of pollution. A goal of both is to make all water safe for recreational use.

Ironically, threats to wild and scenic rivers also come in the form of recreational use. An associate from South Carolina tells me that use of the Chattooga River has exploded since the movie "Deliverance" was filmed there, despite (maybe because of) the bizarre misadventures of the film's hapless crew of river runners. On the Colorado of the Grand Canyon, the carry-in/carry-out ethic of modern backcountry recreation may have reached its ultimate extreme. Because of their increased numbers, and a restricted number of available campsites, floaters are required to carry out *everything*, including those wastes generated by the human gut. It is likely that increased use will make regulations and controls of this kind a necessity on many of the more popular rivers if decent standards of quality, both environmental and recreational, are to be maintained.

In sum, free-flowing rivers are a finite and exhaustible resource. The "reservoir" of wild and scenic rivers is limited. It is now possible to envision the day when all American rivers will be classified as either protected or unqualified, because of alteration, for designation as a national river.

Table 1  
Components of the U.S. Wild and Scenic Rivers System<sup>1</sup>

River	Administering Agency <sup>2</sup>	Miles by Classification		Rec.	Total Miles
		Wild	Scenic		
1 Middle Fork Clearwater (Idaho)	USFS	54	—	131	185
2 Eleven Point (Missouri)	USFS	—	44.4	—	44.4
3 Feather (California)	USFS	32.9	9.7	50.4	93
4 Rio Grande (New Mexico)	BLM	43.9	—	.25	44.15
	USFS	7.85	—	.75	8.6
5 Rogue (Oregon)	BLM	20	—	27	47
	USFS	13	7.5	17	37.5
6 St. Croix (Minnesota and Wisconsin)	NPS & USFS	—	181	19	200
7 Middle Fork Salmon (Idaho)	USFS	103	—	1	104
8 Wolf (Wisconsin)	NPS	—	25	—	25
9 Allagash Wilderness Waterway (Maine)	State	95	—	—	95
10 Lower St. Croix (Minnesota and Wisconsin)	NPS	—	12	15	27
11 Little Miami (Ohio)	State	—	18	48	66
12 Chattooga (N.C., S.C., and Ga.)	USFS	39.8	2.5	14.6	56.9
13 Little Beaver (Ohio)	State	—	33	—	33
14 Snake (Idaho and Oregon)	USFS	32.5	34.4	—	66.9
15 Rapid (Idaho)	USFS	24	—	—	24
16 New (North Carolina)	State	—	26.5	—	26.5
17 Lower St. Croix (Minnesota and Wisconsin)	States	—	—	25	25
18 Missouri (Montana)	BLM	72	18	59	149
19 Flathead (Montana)	USFS & NPS	97.9	40.7	80.4	219
20 Obed (Tennessee)	NPS & State	45.2	—	—	45.2
21 Pere Marquette (Michigan)	USFS	—	66.4	—	66.4
22 Rio Grande (Texas)	NPS	95.2	96	—	191.2
23 Skagit (Washington)	USFS	—	99	58.5	157.5
24 Upper Delaware (New York and Pennsylvania)	NPS	—	25.1	50.3	75.4
25 Middle Delaware (New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey)	NPS	—	35	—	35
26 American, North Fork (California)	USFS	26.3	—	—	26.3
	BLM	12	—	—	12
27 Missouri (Nebraska South Dakota)	Dept. of Interior and Army Corps of Eng.	—	—	59	59
28 Saint Joe (Idaho)	USFS	26.6	—	46.2	72.8
29 Lower Little Miami (Ohio)	State	—	—	28	28
30 Salmon (Idaho)	USFS	79	—	46	125
31 Alagnak (Alaska)	NPS	67	—	—	67
32 Alatna (Alaska)	NPS	83	—	—	83
33 Aniakchak (Alaska)	NPS	69	—	—	69
34 Charley (Alaska)	NPS	251	—	—	251
35 Chilikadrotna (Alaska)	NPS	12	—	—	12
36 John (Alaska)	NPS	52	—	—	52
37 Kobuk (Alaska)	NPS	110	—	—	110
37 Mulchatna (Alaska)	NPS	24	—	—	24
39 Koyukuk, North Fork (Alaska)	NPS	102	—	—	102
40 Noatak (Alaska)	NPS	330	—	—	330
41 Salmon (Alaska)	NPS	70	—	—	70
42 Tinayguk	NPS	44	—	—	44
43 Tiikakila (Alaska)	NPS	51	—	—	51
44 Andreafsky (Alaska)	FWS	262	—	—	262
45 Ivishak (Alaska)	FWS	80	—	—	80
46 Nowitna (Alaska)	FWS	225	—	—	225
47 Selawik (Alaska)	FWS	160	—	—	160
48 Sheenjek (Alaska)	FWS	160	—	—	160
49 Wind (Alaska)	FWS	140	—	—	140
50 Beaver Creek (Alaska)	FWS & BLM	135	—	—	135
51 Birch Creek (Alaska)	BLM	130	—	—	130
52 Delta (Alaska)	BLM	43	—	16	59
53 Fortymile (Alaska)	BLM	190	196	10	396
54 Gulkana (Alaska)	BLM	152	—	—	152
55 Unalakleet (Alaska)	BLM	66	—	—	66
56 Klamath (California)	State, USFS & BLM	12	21	253	286
57 Trinity (California)	State, USFS & BLM	44	39	120	203
58 Eel (California)	State, USFS & BLM	93	28	273	394
59 American Lower (California)	State	—	—	23	23
60 Smith (California)	State & USFS	46	—	283	329
TOTAL		4,123.15	1,058.20	1,754.40	6,935.75

<sup>1</sup> All data supplied by the U.S. National Park Service.

<sup>2</sup> Agency names as follows:

BLM = Bureau of Land Management USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
NPS = National Parks Service USFS = U.S. Forest Service

# Hydro-Electric Development Versus Wilderness in Southwest Tasmania

**COLIN MICHAEL HALL**, has recently completed a year of graduate study in the Department of Geography, University of Waterloo; formerly of the Department of Politics, University of Western Australia.

On 1st July 1983, the High Court of Australia passed down what is probably the most momentous decision in Australia's environmental history. The seven High Court judges decided that the Commonwealth Government had the constitutional power to prevent the Tasmanian State Government from building a hydro-electric scheme in the southwest Tasmanian World Heritage Area. Apart from the enormous ramifications the decision has for Commonwealth-State relations, the decisions also meant that one of the last remaining temperate rainforest wildernesses had been saved from destruction.

Southwest Tasmania is one of the last three major temperate wilderness areas in the world. The others are Fiordland in New Zealand's South Island and Patagonia in Chile. The southwest wilderness contains many rare and endemic species of fauna and flora. Although the native population was wiped out by European man, significant archaeological finds have recently been made. The cultural and ecological significance of the area was highlighted by its designation as a World Heritage Area in 1982.

The public conflict over hydro-electric development in southwest Tasmania probably constitutes the best-known environmental policy debate in Australia. No other State or federal government policy has created so much interest in environmental concerns and, in particular, wilderness preservation. As *The Age* of 20th November 1981, commented:

Nowhere else in Australia has a political issue divided a community as fiercely as the HEC's

plans to dam the Lower Gordon and Franklin Rivers have divided Tasmania.

The development of Tasmania's hydro-electric potential has been inseparable from its economic, political, and social

history. Launceston, in the north of the state, was the second town in the world to receive hydro-electric power. Indeed, the opening of the Great Lake scheme and Waddamana Power Station in 1916 was described as "probably the most important event in the history of Tasmania."<sup>1</sup>

Since 1914 the Hydro-Electric Department (Commission since 1930) and successive Tasmanian governments have advocated a policy of hydro-industrialization, whereby cheap energy is used to attract large manufacturing industries to the state. Hydro-industrialization has been a cornerstone of the Tasmanian economy for the past seventy years. The Hydro-Electric Commission (HEC) has grown to the point where it has become the major employer in Tasmania and the dominant energy institution. However, hydro-industrialization and the dominance of the HEC have come to be firmly challenged since the mid-1960's:

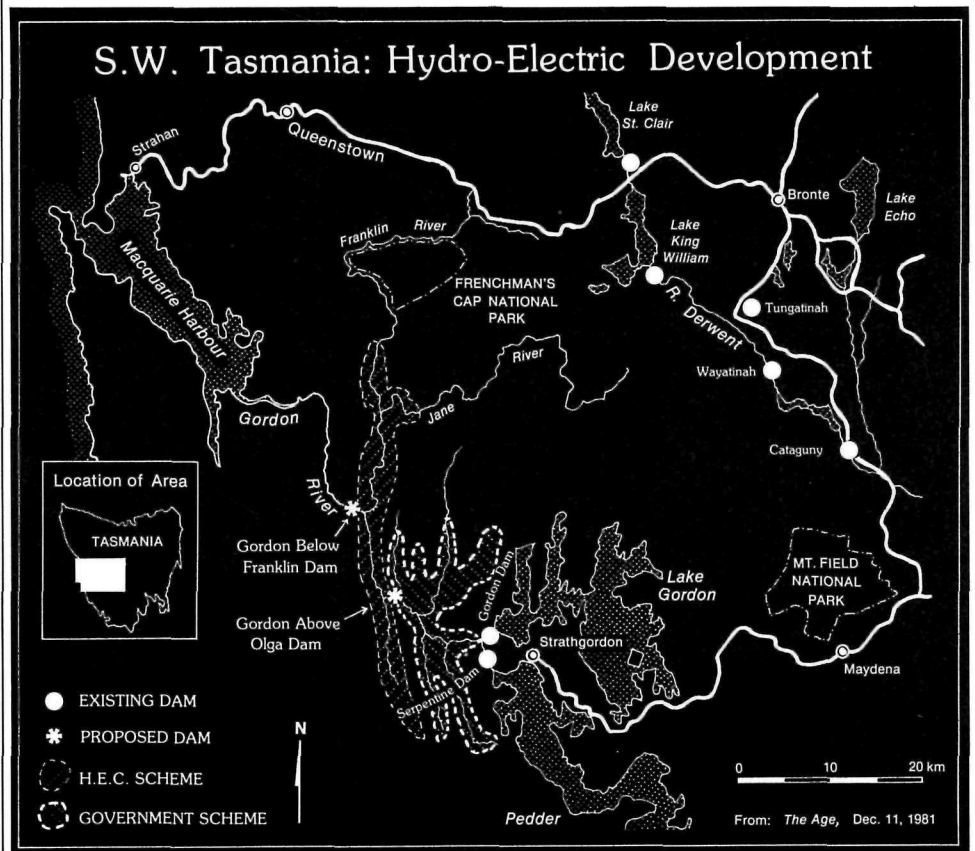
Hydro-electricity has been the unofficial religion of Tasmania for more than 50 years. Generations of Tasmanians were taught to worship at the shrine of cheap hydro-power. Only by faithfully pursuing this path could they be delivered from the evils of economic stagnation.

Economic salvation could only be bestowed by the high priest of Tasmania—the Hydro-Electric Commission, or the HEC as it is commonly, but reverentially called.

Like other religions, many worshippers have fallen by the wayside in recent years.

Increasingly they have come to doubt whether their religion can really promise eternal economic salvation. And they have questioned the sacrifices which the high priest has called on them to make.

In short, they have lost their faith.<sup>2</sup>



The rise of conservationist concerns on the political agenda has led to value conflict in the Tasmanian government's policy-making process. The HEC wishes to develop the hydro-electric potential of southwest Tasmania, while conservationists want the area preserved as a wilderness.

During the 1960's and early 1970's conflict concentrated on conservationist's unsuccessful attempts to save Lake Pedder from being flooded or "enlarged," to use the HEC euphemism. "Situated some sixty miles west of Hobart in the heart of the Southwest, ringed by attractive mountains fringed with a beach of pinkish-white sand. ... there was little doubt that the lake was one of the principal scenic assets of Australia."<sup>3</sup> Despite vehement public opposition to the HEC scheme and the Commonwealth offers of a moratorium, the Tasmanian government insisted that the scheme go ahead and Lake Pedder be flooded as no economic alternative existed.

In 1976 conservationist fears of further hydro-electric development in the region were confirmed when a summary of the HEC's investigations on the Gordon, Franklin, and King Rivers was released. The report revealed two possible arrangements for hydro-electric schemes, an integrated development which would combine the flow of the Lower Gordon, Franklin, and King Rivers (the Gordon-below-Franklin or Franklin Dam option), and a separate development which would harness the Lower Gordon and Franklin-King catchments (the Gordon-above-Olga Dam option).

The rise of a reformist State Labour Government under Premier Lowe in 1977 witnessed attempts to reconstruct the relationship between the State Government and the HEC. However, HEC-controlling legislation was only passed by the Tasmania Upper House (the Legislative Council) after Premier Lowe assured that body in writing "that it is not the government's intention to interfere with the day-to-day operation of the Commission".<sup>4</sup> In Premier Lowe's own words:

"It was made clear to me in no uncertain terms that the Commission saw no need for ministerial control to be implemented and that they, as a Commission were opposed to it"<sup>5</sup>

On 16th October 1979 the HEC released its *Report on the Gordon River Power Development Stage Two*. The report recommended Parliamentary approval for the Gordon-below-Franklin Dam as the first stage of an integrated power development at an estimated cost of A\$1.36 billion for 680 Mw of power. In a ministerial statement, the Premier gave an assurance that any decision on the proposed scheme would follow the recommendations of a proposed joint parliamentary committee and only after the most thorough scrutiny.<sup>6</sup> However, the Premier's suggestion was overruled by his own Caucus and the Opposition.

In June 1980 the Hydro Employees Action Team (HEAT) was formed to promote the HEC scheme. According to its convenor, Brian Hoyle:

"The formation of HEAT was a reaction to the recent so-called 'conservationists' rally at which a number of imported pseudo experts excelled even the local variety of self-appointed gurus in spewing forth a mixture of absurdity, juvenile irresponsibility and downright dishonesty."<sup>7</sup>

Some members of the Tasmanian government saw HEAT and its actions as synonymous with that of the HEC, —and in this way, a government instrumentality fighting the decisions of its ultimate employer."<sup>8</sup> The attitude of HEAT was of obvious concern to the Tasmanian Government, as Brian Hoyle stated:

"We'll be more than critical of the government and do everything we can to embarrass the government... and actively push the Gordon-below-Franklin side in any election or referendum."<sup>9</sup>

Despite HEAT and HEC opposition, and forecasts of power rationing, the Tasmanian government rejected the Gordon-below-Franklin Dam and instead approved construction of the Gordon-above-Olga scheme, representing the first time an HEC proposal had been rejected. However, the future of the Franklin River was still uncertain.

"The Premier said the Lower Gordon and Franklin Rivers could be saved forever. Later in July he changed his mind and said there could be a decision in twenty-five years' time to flood the Franklin."<sup>10</sup>

Meanwhile, the Select Committee of the Legislative Council examining the HEC proposals concluded that the Gordon-below-Franklin scheme was superior in terms of productivity, costs and lead-time. When the government proposals reached the Legislative Council, the Council sought to substitute the HEC scheme for the Gordon-above-Olga scheme. The Council then requested the Lower House to reconsider its decision but the Labour government refused, resulting in the most serious parliamentary crisis in Tasmanian history.

Throughout 1981 the Labour government, failing to resolve the deadlock between the Houses, came under increased pressure to revoke its decision to support the Gordon-above-Olga option. On the 16th September the government decided to hold a referendum on the dams issue. However, the referendum only gave two options—to vote for either the Gordon-below-Franklin or the Gordon-above-Olga schemes, there was no "no dam" option. The "rules of the game" had been effectively created to exclude the conservationists from the formal decision-making process.

The influence of the HEC on the referendum was accurately summed up by Mr. Lohrey, Minister for National Parks and Wildlife, who resigned during this period:

"It's a shocking state of affairs—until the Hydro is reduced to the size of a government department, psychologically and in every other way, Tasmania is going to have very, very serious problems, not only of a political kind which we've had for the last 10 years but also industrial."<sup>11</sup>

Prior to the 12th December referendum Premier Lowe and the government whip, Mrs. Mary Wiley, resigned, creating a

minority government. The referendum was a hard fought campaign with the conservationists, led by the Tasmanian Wilderness Society (TWS), advocating voters to write "No Dams" on the ballot slip. The final result was:

Gordon-below-Franklin	47.2 %
Gordon-above-Olga	7.94%
Informal	44.8 %
	(No Dams 33%)

The Labour government, under the new Premier, Harry Holgate, disregarded the informal vote and gave their approval to the Franklin scheme. However, the referendum was not sufficient to save the government from the ignomy of being forced to go to the polls.

At the State election of 15th May 1982, the Liberal Party won government for the first time in Tasmanian electoral history. The liberals were firmly committed to the HEC option and proceeded to dismantle the remaining vestiges of the previous government's bureaucratic reforms.

On the 7th and 15th of September the Gray government revoked sections of the Wild Rivers National Park, an internationally recognized reserve, vesting the area in the HEC. More than ever, this period saw the Franklin Dam become a national issue. The Tasmanian government launched an Australia-wide advertising campaign explaining its decision, and Premier Lowe warned federal politicians not to meddle in his State's power development schemes. In line with previous statements the federal government announced its decision on the 8th December to place the wilderness area affected by the Dam on the World Heritage Register, but refused to exercise its authority to prevent the dam being built.<sup>12</sup>

From 12th December to mid-March 1983 the Franklin Dam issue became one of open confrontation between conservationists and the Tasmanian government, as the TWS launched a dam site blockade designed to hinder HEC construction and maintain media interest. The blockade involved more than 4,000 people,<sup>13</sup> and resulted in 1,272 arrests, including the "Botanic Man," Professor David Bellamy, and several members of Parliament.<sup>14</sup> As a federal election loomed, the federal Labour Party followed the lead of the Australian

<sup>1</sup> Hydro-Electric Department, *Report for the Year 1915-16* Hobart: Government Printer, 1916, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Cockburn, M. "The great hydro-power vision falls from grace" *Sydney Morning Herald*, February 1, 1983, p. 7.

<sup>3</sup> Davis, B. W. "Waterpower and Wilderness: Political Controversy," pp. 42-61 in R. Dempsey (ed.), *The Politics of Finding Out Environmental Problems in Australia*. Melbourne: Cheshire, 1974, pp. 43-44.

<sup>4</sup> Cockburn, *op. cit.*

<sup>5</sup> *Loc. cit.*

<sup>6</sup> *Mercury*, October 17, 1979.

<sup>7</sup> HEAT media statement, June 27, 1980 cited in P. Thompson, *Power in Tasmania*. Melbourne: Australian Conservation Foundation, 1981, p. 93.

<sup>8</sup> *Examiner*, July 14, 1980.

<sup>9</sup> Australian Broadcasting Commission, *Nationwide*, March 16, 1981 cited in Thompson, *op. cit.*, 1981, p. 94.

<sup>10</sup> Townsley, W. A. "Political Chronicle: Tasmania," *Australian Journal of Politics and History*, 27, No. 1, (1981), p. 84.

<sup>11</sup> *Canberra Times*, November 13, 1981.

<sup>12</sup> *Canberra Times*, December 9, 1982.

<sup>13</sup> *The Age*, March 8, 1983, p. 5.

<sup>14</sup> The Wilderness Society, *The Franklin Blockade*. Hobart: The Wilderness Society, 1983.

democrats and gave a firm undertaking that they would prevent dam construction if elected to Government, and conservation groups all around Australia decided openly to persuade electors to vote against the federal Liberal government.

The overwhelming victory of the Australian Labour party at the 5th May 1983 federal election, was not solely due to the Franklin Dam issue. However, the support of anti-dam Lower House candidates by conservation groups in marginal seats around Australia, and support for the pro-conservationist Australian Democrats in the Senate, was definitely a major factor in the Liberal Government's demise.

The election victory of Prime Minister Hawke provided the basis on which the High Court decision was built. However, the future of the southwest wilderness is far from settled. The Tasmanian government and the HEC are continuing with hydro-electric development despite both conservationist objections and doubts as to its economic suitability. The southwest wilderness may unfortunately become an ecological island surrounded by a sea of hydro-electric schemes.

The Tasmanian situation is a good example of a public corporation out of control. The HEC is a single-purpose public agency suffering from a severe case of tunnel vision. Problems of accountability, especially regarding public participation and environmental protection, are similar to those occurring in Canadian situations.<sup>15</sup> Likewise, parallels occur when examining the problem of implementing environmental protection agreements in a federal system. Canadians may be well advised to focus considerable attention on environmental problems in Australia for insight into their own situation.

<sup>15</sup> See McKay, P. *Electric Empire The Inside Story of Ontario Hydro*. Toronto: Between The Lines, 1983.

### J. David Henry

#### President NPPAC 1982-84: A Tribute

Dave has been an excellent president, and we should recognize his contribution. He is a superb naturalist, in the traditional sense of the word, his particular interest being animal behaviour. The first time I met him I remember the antics and motions he went through as he described the behaviour of fox and grebes to me. My curiosity and interest in getting to know him better was one of my reasons for getting involved in the NPPAC.

I was really pleased when Dave took over the presidency two years ago, his need for caution and his questioning mind were required after John Marsh re-lit the NPPAC fuse in the late '70's. Dave is modest but I think it is high time that the NPPAC recognized his outstanding contribution in the Grasslands National Park negotiations. It is much to his effort and initiative that land is now being purchased to establish the first core area of the park.

I admire Dave for a number of things—his devotion to family, his striving for a lifestyle/work balance that suits his personality, his superb mind, his curiosity and his knowledge about the behaviour of animals. Our members may not be aware of this fact but his decision to become president was not taken lightly—he thought about it carefully

as he does with everything. He agreed to be president but with conditions. These shifted the role of the Board of Trustees and in my mind, if Dave has left any legacy, it is this redirection of the Board for which he will be most remembered.

The decision to be President was hard for Dave as this type of role/position is against his personality. Dave prefers not to manage people; not to administer programs; not to be concerned with details—each of which is the work of the President. His devotion to parks and the NPPAC overruled his personality preference. For his action, he, therefore, deserves great credit. This decision was hard on him, and in some cases most stressful—we all thank you most sincerely.

While president his other life has continued, raising his family, teaching courses and finishing his manuscript on "Fox" for the Smithsonian Institute. Dave is now off for a few days of hiking in Gros Morne, but please, before he departs, as a token of our appreciation could we all join in and thank him for his contribution to parks and devotion to the NPPAC. Dave, thank you.

(tribute presented to J. David Henry, at the NPPAC, A.G.M. Terra Nova, Newfoundland, 1984)

Nominations  
are invited for the

## J. B. HARKIN AWARD

It is awarded in recognition of distinguished  
contributions to conservation in Canada.

Send nominations to Dr. Robert Scace  
Harkin Committee  
NPPAC  
Suite 313, 69 Sherbourne St.  
Toronto, Ontario M5A 3X7

# Association News

## Thoughts of a New President

I consider it an honour to be elected President of the NPPAC. I joined the Association in 1972 while an employee of Parks Canada. The need for a parks advocacy lobby group was evident to myself and co-workers—not because Parks Canada and Provincial agencies weren't doing a good job, but because they could not do the whole job. An "outsider" was required to assist in educating the public and raising the profile of parks and park issues.

I stayed an inactive member until 1977 when, as a resident of Swift Current, I became involved in the formation of the Saskatchewan Chapter and negotiations over the Grasslands National Park. I love the Prairie and it warms the cockles of my heart to know that land purchase in the proposed park area has now begun. The Grassland success makes all the time and effort expended worthwhile. It was John Marsh who got me involved in the National Executive of the NPPAC—while walking across the Prairie one day he said to me

"what are you doing for the next few years. Our association needs people like you." I didn't know whether this invitation was an opportunity to seize or avoid, however, here I am six years later, President!

Everyone asks "what are your goals?" Generally I respond that I am a little disappointed in the NPPAC and that when my term is over I hope this feeling will be better. I in no way question the Association's integrity, or the vital role it plays as an advocacy group—but I am frustrated at its low profile, low membership and seemingly low effectiveness at the provincial level. To this end the personal goals I've set are to raise membership significantly and oversee a change in tone from that of a "park lobby" to "park advocacy/education group." Achieving these goals should lead to a higher profile for the association, nationally and provincially. Internally, the Association needs a stronger financial footing. We simply cannot achieve required operation levels on a budget of \$75,000.

Consequently, I am examining the administrative system and the functions of the Board. The first step is to establish working committees to carry out necessary action, effectively sharing the work load.

The spirit of our parks and wildlands is exciting; but equally exciting is the vision of the NPPAC playing a crucial role in preserving it. I believe the association can reach this vision. I can't achieve this alone and, as President, I would like to urge you, as a member, to become closely involved in Chapter activity, assist in organization, volunteer for the committees and recruit new members. Together we can all achieve this vision and help the NPPAC maintain itself as Canada's foremost park advocacy association. I appreciate your confidence in me. As President of the Association I will strive to fill the shoes of my distinguished predecessors and carry on the work of the NPPAC in preserving Canada's parks and wildlands.

Bob Peart

## 1984-85 Standing Committees

### Executive Committee

Bob Peart, *Chair, president*  
Lindsay Staples, *vice-president*  
Peter Garstang  
Jim Butler  
David Henry, *past president, ex officio*

### Financial Committee

Bob Peart, *Chair*  
Jim Gardner  
Lindsay Staples  
Kevin McNamee

### Membership Committee

Sondra Phillips, *Chair*  
Don Huff  
Peter Garstang  
Stephen Knowles  
Graham MacDonald  
Kevin McNamee

### Resolutions Committee

Peter Garstang, *Chair*  
Jim Gardner  
Stephen Knowles

### Nominating Committee

Jennifer Shay, *Chair*  
Jon Lien  
Ted Mosquin  
Graham MacDonald

### Publications Committee

Marylee Stephenson, *Chair*  
Don Huff  
Fred Helleiner  
John Theberge  
Peter Garstang  
Ted Mosquin

### Awards Committee

Jim Butler, *Chair*  
David Henry  
Ted Mosquin

### Harkin Award

Bob Scace, *Chair*  
Jim Butler  
Gordon Nelson

### Education Committee

Jon Lien, *Chair*  
Don Huff  
Bob Graham  
Lindsay Staples  
Marylee Stephenson  
Kevin McNamee  
Gloria Snively

### Centennial Committee

Kevin McNamee, *Chair*  
Philip Dearden  
Fred Helleiner  
Colin Wood

### Northern Conservation Committee

John Theberge, *Chair*  
Lindsay Staples  
Bruce Downie  
Kevin McNamee

### National Parks Act Committee

David Henry, *Chair*  
Rosemary Nation  
Graham MacDonald

### Park News Committee

Colin Wood, *Editor*  
Bruce Downie  
Philip Dearden  
Fred Helleiner

# Cross Country News

## Ottawa/Hull Chapter

The last Annual Meeting of the Ottawa/Hull Chapter was held on October 19, 1983. Although the attendance at the meeting was sparse, we were very fortunate in securing five new members for the executive, and later added a sixth. All have proven to be excellent additions. Members of the Executive Council are:

Duncan Anderson  
Doug Carman  
Bill Gard  
Stephanie Hunt  
Stephen Knowles  
Jack Gillett  
Harry McLeod  
Gary Sealey  
Jim Soper  
Henning von Mirbach  
Marylee Stephenson

At the 23 November meeting, the following were elected as officers:

Bill Gard	<i>Chairman</i>
Harry McLeod	<i>Vice Chairman</i>
Stephen Knowles	<i>Secretary</i>
Doug Carman	<i>Treasurer</i>
Duncan Anderson	<i>Membership Secretary</i>
Stephanie Hunt	<i>Newsletter Editor</i>

Our survey has shown the Ottawa general membership to be composed of people who are supportive, morally and financially, of our activities, but who do not have time to become personally involved. Because of this situation, the executive decided to limit its activities to a realistic scope. Accordingly, priorities were set as:

1. Broadening membership, raising the chapter's profile, and improving communication with membership.
2. Obtaining more information from Parks Canada regarding status and schedules of park management plans in order to refine our assessment of priorities in this area.
3. Follow up on the Ontario District Land Use Planning activity.
4. Gatineau Park
5. Regional Lands
6. Ottawa River Development

Despite the improved Newsletter, real communication with the membership remains a problem. To improve it, and to build a network for quick communication, we are organizing a telephone network. Past experience has shown that talking directly produces better results.

The Chapter was very fortunate in obtaining Stephanie Hunt, professional journalist, as a member of the Executive, and newsletter Editor. She has done an excellent job. The format has been changed, line drawings have been added, and the readability of the newsletter has been greatly improved.

## Activities

Although the National Capital Commission is well aware of the NPPAC, thanks to the many years of work of our Gatineau Park Committee, the reaction to our name elsewhere is usually "who?". We are not as well known locally as the 1600 member Ottawa Field Naturalists Club, with whom we frequently co-operate on regional issues, such as the Carp Hills problem, on which the Chapter is presently working. It is through this activity that our profile is rising to some extent. The bottom line of credibility among politicians, however, is how many members (votes) the organization has.

## Gatineau Park

The Ottawa Chapter was initially formed as a separate organization in response to the Gatineau Park master plan. Over the years our Gatineau Park Committee has provided input to, and has earned the respect of, the National Capital Commission. In the last annual report to the Trustees, tree cutting along trails, Lac LaPêche campsite realignment, and use of Ridge Road for bicycles were mentioned as topics of discussion between the NCC and the Committee. The NCC is now reconsidering its tree cutting policy and the Lac LaPêche development is receiving further study, in which the Chapter will be consulted, and the Eardley-Masham realignment has been shelved. We arranged a visit to Gatineau Park to receive information on the interpretive program.

## Regional Lands

The Chapter has been heavily involved in opposition to a proposed housing development which would bisect the Carp Ridge, or the Carp Hills as they are also known. This is the only large outcrop of the Canadian Shield which occurs in the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, and supports a large variety of wildlife, including a deer population. It is recognized as ecologically significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

The proposal, consisting of 90-99 houses, would disturb the deer yard and have other detrimental effects on the wildlife of the

ridge. Other land on the ridge is owned by the region and by private landowners who are split on the issue.

The MNR, despite identifying the ridge as ecologically significant, has not objected to development. An ad hoc group, the Carp Hills Action Committee, has been formed to oppose the development. It is chaired by Mary Gregory, an environmental activist. The Chapter, the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club, a local Women's Institute, local naturalists and land-owners are members.

Chapter efforts have been extensive. Briefs have been presented to the appropriate levels of the Regional government, verbal presentations have been made, and telephone campaigns are under way. A final decision is scheduled for September. Intensive efforts are continuing to bring this matter to a successful conclusion.

## Parks Canada

A meeting was held with Parks Canada to give members of the Executive an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the National Parks planning process, with progress toward the establishment of Northern National Parks, and with the Marine Park policy. Our input to these activities has not been formalized, nor as great as we would have liked, due to the pressure of other business. Individual members of the Executive have, however, replied to the proposed Nahanni Master plan, and attended the Nahanni briefing by Parks Canada.

We sent a lengthy response to the Conservation Council of Western Australia in reply to their request for comments regarding MNR encompassing both parks and resources within its mandate.

A letter of commendation was sent to Environment Minister Caccia regarding his stopping the Marina development in Pukaskwa National Park.

A letter of support was sent to Mr. Caccia with respect to his stand on the winter Olympic Games and Banff National Park.

Information was requested and received from the Ontario MNR regarding the privatization of provincial campground operations.

C. W. S. Gard, *Chairman*

## Wildlands League An Ontario Chapter of the NPPAC

It is over a year since Alan Pope, Minister of Natural Resources, announced that Ontario would have 155 new parks as a result of the Strategic Land Use Planning program. Six new Wilderness Parks were created (though without the level of protection that the government's Blue Book on Park regulation indicates) and we have a promise that the others will be in regulation by June 1985.

Following the release of the District Guidelines we decided that we should give them all a serious evaluation to see if they meet original park objectives, to determine if valuable areas had been left out, and to compare the results with earlier govern-

ment statements like the Monzon Report. There are over 40 Districts and they were shared between Directors. Heather Cooke has been retained to research all this information and to chart the results which we now have. She has done a terrific job. We believe that this 'Report Card,' as Bruce L. Litteljohn calls it, is vital if we are to do our job as watchkeepers for wilderness. We found that no one else was undertaking this survey—not even the Minister of Natural Resources itself. Our findings will be released shortly.

Although this project was the largest that we have taken this past year, it has certainly not been the only one.

We have been active with the continuing effort to get a new National Park created at the northern tip of the Bruce Peninsula.

We are opposing the proposed lifting of the motor boat ban in Quetico and we are now looking into the issue of airplane landings there.

We have been active in attempting to protect that fine whitewater river, the Spanish from dams and water line cutting.

One of the major issues to come up this past year was a Parks Canada move to put a road and marina into the Pukaskwa Park. We were alerted to this threat by one of our Northern Directors, Michael O'Connor. We moved quickly with phone calls to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Al Davidson; a direct meeting in the Park with the Superintendent by several conservation groups led by Bruce Litteljohn; a letter to the Prime Minister by Bill Mason and a final meeting with Charles Caccia here in Toronto. Caccia, to his credit, stopped the project. The threat is not over but now we know that there will be proper consultation and we will be able to discuss alternatives with Parks Canada. We believe that Parks Canada have learned not to try and put anything like that past us.

We are represented on the Conservation Council of Ontario and the Acid Rain Coalition.

These are some of the major issues but we have also kept our eye on the rest of the Province to the best of our ability. There are two other big items coming up this next year—Environmental Assessment for Forestry and Environmental Assessment for Parks. We will be actively involved here and have already started work by hiring a research person.

We have created a new image for our Chapter. With the help of Burton Kramer, one of Canada's top designers, a number of solutions were presented to us and we selected our pugnacious moose. We think that, though aggressive, there is also a touch of humour to him.

Our new slide show is complete. It was put together by Ed Atkins from hundreds of superb slides donated to us by many of Canada's finest photographers and we are very proud of it.

Heather Cooke has continued to do a great job in producing our Wildlands Newsletter.

We took an active interest in the re-issue of that fine wilderness anthology, 'Marked by the Wild' and we hope that it will sell well. When you buy your copy you will see our credit note.

The Wilderness Show was held at Harbourfront on May 18-19. The objectives were to raise the profile of our organization and give ourselves the chance to raise some money though we didn't expect a profit from this first year. Although there was a good range of exhibitors at the show, attendance was not as high as we expected. We lost about \$1600 and gained a good deal of experience. We will now assess the results carefully before making plans for year two.

The new office space that we share with the National Office is staffed partly by volunteers and partly by part-time clerical and research people on contract.

At our Annual General Meeting held on the 27th of June, 27 Directors were elected. Eight of these live and work in the north of the province, 14 of us are from Toronto and 5 from other parts of southern Ontario. The Directors meet at least once a month with sub-committee meetings taking place as needed. Our membership is approximately 400.

Peter Garstang

### Saskatchewan Chapter

The Saskatchewan Chapter, in spite of continuing difficulties with Executive turnovers and a small membership, has continued to be active in park related issues. Steps are being taken to increase membership. In early spring, the names and addresses of all visitors who registered for backcountry trips in Prince Albert National Park were obtained, and these people were sent promotional packages. The success of this campaign, organized by Bradley Muir, has yet to be addressed. A similar campaign, designed to reach Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources employees, is being organized. Also, non-renewing members who have been contacted by mail from head office will also be contacted by telephone in a follow-up program to be undertaken at the end of the summer.

The Chapter has continued to be active in the Grasslands Park issue, maintaining a regular correspondence with Mr. Caccia and Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources Minister, Bob Pickering. The main thrust has been to urge the federal and provincial governments to reach an agreement to amend the 1981 Agreement to establish the Park. This amendment, which was just settled last month, will allow Parks Canada to begin land acquisition for the Park immediately, rather than having to await the completion of the province's oil and gas exploration program. As a result of this amendment, Parks Canada has acquired a large block of land in the heart of the park. The Association has co-

ordinated its efforts with the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, one of the largest conservation oriented groups in the province.

The Chapter has also maintained an active interest in the management of Prince Albert National Park, a role which has been greatly facilitated by David Henry's close proximity to the park and his ongoing dialogue with the Superintendent. The State of the Park Report prepared by David Henry and Stuart Heard last summer, continues to provide a basis for monitoring the park's management. A number of specific issues of concern have been addressed by the Chapter, including low flying Armed Forces aircraft in the vicinity of the large pelican colony at Lavallee Lake, the potential impact of the proposed use of horses in the backcountry areas of the park.

Provincial Parks have continued to be a priority with the Chapter; our specific concern being the lack of a co-ordinated park classification and zoning policy to regulate activities within provincial parks. Unfortunately, in spite of continued promises from Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources, nothing has appeared of this nature to date. The need for clarification in this matter is pressing, particularly in light of the province's new emphasis on encouraging private business interests to provide services in Provincial Parks. We intend to continue activity in this area of concern. Another issue being tackled is the province's plan to clear-cut much of the lodgepole pine forest in Cypress Hills, claiming that mountain pine beetles are killing the trees and creating a fire hazard.

We have taken an active role in the Heritage For Tomorrow project associated with the National Parks Centennial. We are represented in the program by Peter Goode, who has also served as the Saskatchewan Co-ordinator for the Prairie Caucus. The Heritage For Tomorrow project is taking a broad view to include the full array of natural, historic and cultural resources. One priority will be to nominate candidate areas for heritage designation.

The Saskatchewan Chapter has tried to co-ordinate its activities with those of other conservation organizations in the province. To this end, Donna Barclay represented us at a meeting of "Kindred Groups," in order to identify concerns and issues, especially those that are shared by more than one organization. Also, the Chapter Chairman sits on the executive of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, and provides a liaison between the two groups.

We have held irregular meetings in the fall and winter. Monthly meetings are somewhat difficult to arrange since our membership is very thinly scattered, (but may be considered in the future). Four newsletters are produced each year, but our present Editor will soon be retiring and a new candidate is being sought. Peter Goode has agreed to take over the role of Chairman this year. I intend to continue in an active role in the executive. However, after three years in the position of Chairman, I look forward to giving

Peter the opportunity to infuse the Chapter with new ideas and enthusiasm. I am sure the interests of the NPPAC in Saskatchewan will be well represented.

Ross M. Barclay

### Edmonton Chapter

The Edmonton Chapter of NPPAC held five public meetings over the last year, all of which were well attended at the auditorium of the Provincial Museum. One meeting was a panel debate over the Slave River Dam, which featured the vice-president of the Indian Association of Alberta, a representative of the Environmental Law Centre, a biologist of the Canadian Wildlife Service, a spokesman for TransAlta Utilities and the superintendent of Wood Buffalo National Park. Another meeting featured Barry Rogers of the Alberta Forest Service speaking on their role in wildland recreation and wilderness management. The new slide-tape presentation of the Alberta Wilderness Association, "Why Wilderness," was also presented that evening. A third meeting featured a National Geographic sixty minute film on current management problems in the U.S. National Parks, which set the stage for a stimulating discussion among the audience. Mr. Steve Kun, Regional Director of Parks Canada, spoke at one meeting about new initiatives of Northern National Parks. The annual meeting, held at the president's home, contained very well received presentations from the membership of six slides each of their favourite parks or equivalent reserves. The result, presented with wine and cheese, was a fascinating three hour world review of parks of Britain, Galapagos, Nepal, Africa, South America, the U.S. and Canada. Each meeting had a door prize drawing of two books, one of which was Lawrence's massive *Canada's National Parks*.

Two extended field trips involving chartered buses were conducted during the year; one in the fall visited Glacier National Park, Montana, to observe the spectacle of the bald eagle concentrations feeding on the Kokanee salmon run. The second was to Lethbridge to lend support during the hearings for the Milk River Canyon Ecological Reserve which symbolized the birth or death of Alberta's ecological reserves program. The forthcoming fall field trip is to Kluane National Park and Haines, Alaska.

The executive of the chapter met regularly throughout the year and hosted visiting guests such as the speakers mentioned and other parks' personalities, local and international, such as Mr. Kiplgel Mohammed Kaitany, Director of Kenya's National Parks system. Meeting notices were printed and distributed and new and improved formats were developed for the chapter newsletter which was upgraded this year to a new standard with three improved issues, the last (July 1, 1984) in newspaper style, being indicative of the format to be followed for the upcoming year.

The chapter has currently embarked on

its membership drive, having made contacts throughout the city with commercial outlets to distribute the newsletter and to develop a core of advertising sponsors intended to offset the production costs of the newsletter. This is being done through the use of three summer temporary employment positions from Alberta Manpower which were successfully awarded to the chapter. This manpower award facilitated a major updating, reorganization and cross-referencing of organizational and administrative files (which involved more than 75 man-hours); researched ways and means of potential fund raising for the chapter, including legalities, implications and constraints and gathered much needed background data for several issues of current concern.

We participated actively with the Alberta Environmental Network, which is a coalition of approximately fifty distinct environmental organizations. The chapter is also chairing the Slave River Coalition of environmental groups concerned with the Slave River Dam.

We issued and/or actively participated in sessions concerning ecological reserves, the Mountain Park Planning Process, Kluane Master Planning Process, Wood Buffalo Master Planning Process, Capital City Parks, and Provincial Parks Policy Development. We lent support to three major research studies conducted by graduate students of the University of Alberta, one concerning the problem of Bighorn Sheep habituation in Banff; another concerning angler response to Alberta's first catch-and-release fishing regulations, a management approach long encouraged for the national parks but nowhere in place! The third was for development of a land registry classification system for special and unique landscapes and associations.

Several presentations were given by the president over the year to spread awareness of the defined objectives of the organization. They were given to such groups as volunteers at the local nature centre, annual meeting of elementary school principals and the annual meeting of the Canadian Institute of Forestry.

We are actively participating in several facets of the Parks Centennial planning, as a member of the Prairie Caucus, as members of the planning executive for the companion conference of the First World Heritage Congress and the centennial celebration and wildlife management conference of Elk Island National Park.

Dr. James R. Butler

### Calgary/Banff Chapter

It has been a busy year for the Calgary/Banff Chapter. We have been involved with many ongoing issues related to the national parks near us and have also been active in issues which have arisen on an adhoc basis.

During the last twelve months, the following talks and outings were sponsored: In September, Dr. Len Hills from the Univer-

sity of Calgary, led a bus trip to Drumheller. The Chapter subsidized the cost of the bus. Dr. Hills was most informative in describing the geography of the area, an explanation of its uniqueness and pointing out the interesting plant life in the area.

Judith Hall, one of our executive members, led a hike in Nose Creek Provincial Park in October. Judith is involved in the advisory committee for Nose Creek, and is well acquainted with the area.

Diane Pachal, the environmental co-ordinator, gave a talk at the University in November which we sponsored in relation to issues of the Kananaskis Park.

Dr. Revel, of the University of Calgary, gave a talk dealing with the International Biological Program (IBP) in March dealing with the basis of the program, and the future directions it may take. A large part of the talk, which was illustrated with slides, related to the important areas in Northern Canada which should be protected.

Cliff White, a warden from Banff National Park, gave a presentation in April on controlled burns in the national parks. This was in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting and involved a presentation on new developments towards fire management.

The Chapter has a camping trip planned in the Milk River area for mid-July. Again Dr. Hills will lead the trip, which will involve travelling down to the Milk River area, having a discussion of the geology and the uniqueness of the area, and a number of hikes in the area.

### Issues

Our organization, has been involved in opposing the location of the downhill ski events for the 1988 Olympics at Lake Louise. This involved numerous meetings and letter writing campaigns, as well as publicity, and we have met with the Minister of the Environment at least once in this regard. When Mount Allen appeared to be the site which the Province would develop and OCO would support, we were involved with a number of other conservation groups in an attempt to present to the Alberta government the perceived difficulties with that site and suggest various options to them. This involved almost weekly meetings, various news presentations, and a high demand on our time.

### Four Mountain Parks Plan

The Four Mountain Parks Plan will hopefully be completed by 1985, the Centennial year. Open houses were held in June, 1984, in relation to the three planning options which have been proposed by Parks Canada. A detailed brief was prepared by us in response to these plans. In addition, individuals in the Chapter attended the open houses, and a radio presentation was given in relation to our position.

### Provincial Park Work

We were involved in a workshop in June, 1984 in relation to the revision of the Alberta Provincial Parks Policy.



We have remained involved in two major issues in the parks at present, the twinning of the Trans Canada Highway within Banff National Park, and the CPR expansion through the Rogers Pass area and Glacier National Park.

We have been involved with other Calgary conservation groups in the following initiatives:

A presentation in one of the local shopping malls during Environment Week.

Opposing logging in the Hidden Creek area. Presenting a display at the Banff film festival in November, 1983.

Taking action to attempt to ensure preservation of the various wildlife habitats in the Suffield area.

Attending Alberta Energy Resource Conservation Board meetings, relating to the role which environmental groups can play before the Board.

Funding of the office of the Environmental Co-ordinator, a half-time position which co-ordinates the efforts of various conservation groups in Calgary.

We held our annual consultative meeting with the Western Region of Parks Canada in November, 1983. This has become an annual event, when we sit down with Parks Canada officials and discuss with them our concerns about park management and discover new initiatives which are arising. This also allows Parks Canada to get our informal response to various developments or proposals for the parks. In addition, we met with the Minister of the Environment, Charles Caccia, when he was in Banff in March of 1984. He specifically asked for a meeting with the environmental groups, and we are encouraged in relation to his genuine ongoing concern for environmental issues.

This year we managed to obtain funding from the Provincial Government in the amount of \$3,806.50 for our Chapter. In addition, we received a \$500 grant from the Grant MacEwan Nature Fund, which has been specifically earmarked for a public meeting and a speaker relating to park issues.

Rosemary E. Nation

### British Columbia Chapter

The B.C. Chapter has experienced a very active year due mostly to the large number of park issues in the province. Membership has continued to grow as has attendance at meetings.

#### Activities

A series of regular open meetings through the winter featured talks and slide shows on various park issues. These included Al Whitney on the Queen Charlotte Islands, Bob Peart on the Pacific Rim, Bob Ogilvie and Gordon Tollman on the Akamina/Kishinina, and Bruce Downie on Kluane National Park. Thanks go to all speakers. These advertised meetings will be continued next winter.

A one-day policy workshop organized by Jean Hnytka was held in Victoria in March to address past and current Chapter policies and future directions.

We co-sponsored a 2 day symposium in Vancouver on parks in British Columbia that was attended by over 350 delegates who heard a wide range of talks from pro-industry to conservationists. The proceedings are being published. Bruce Downie and Lucy Alderson spent many hours of work for the NPPAC on the Symposium Planning Team.

This Symposium was the initial step toward forming a B.C. Regional Caucus for the celebration of the National Parks Centennial to provide a position paper to be presented at the Banff Conference in 1985. Philip Dearden and Bruce Downie are our representatives. Bruce, as regional representative for Vancouver Island, has been organizing public meetings to gain input on park status in the region.

The Chapter and individual members have submitted various projects for consideration for funding by the Citizen's Centennial Committee. Keith Brown and Monty Miedrich helped co-ordinate this effort.

Bruce Downie, on behalf of the Chapter, is preparing a public booklet on national park issues in B.C.

We have inaugurated a field trip programme led by Hank Stirland who has run two excellent trips; a day trip to Sombrio Beach on the west coast north of Victoria and now being logged following some controversy, and a weekend trip to Pacific Rim National Park to examine park management issues and meet with parks personnel.

Philip Dearden, attended the national ENGO Conference in Ottawa and met with other NPPAC representatives there. It is strongly recommended that all Chapters seek representation as delegates from regional ENGO's to attend this annual meeting and facilitate intra-Association communications.

The B.C. Chapter undertook to find a replacement for John Marsh as *Park News* editor. Dr. Colin Wood at the University of Victoria has now accepted the position and *Park News* will be published in Victoria. A local editorial board has been formed. Jean Hnytka is the new assistant editor.

#### Action

We have been involved with many different issues this year.

The status of South Moresby Island continues to be a major concern. A decision by the Provincial Cabinet is pending. The Chapter has actively liaised with the Islands Protection Society in its lobbying effort and has continued to help fund I.P.S. In addition, we have established the Queen Charlotte Trust Fund as a more direct means to help fund I.P.S. Campaign activities have included sponsorship of I.P.S. and other related slide shows, letter writing, information leaflets, meetings, publicity through the Chapter Newsletter and other means of direct lobbying with provincial officials.

Two main issues have dominated concern with Pacific Rim—On the first, the completion and official designation as a National Park, constant pressure has been applied to federal and provincial officials to work towards a solution of the dispute. This has included letter writing campaigns, meetings with both sides, information sessions and publicity. No end to the dispute is in sight. The second, the logging of Meares Island adjacent to the northern boundary, has generated considerable controversy. Our concerns are the impact of logging on enjoying the park and the fact that results of a 3 year long integrated planning team report on the issue appears to have been completely ignored by the political decision-makers. We have helped fund publicity for a local group fighting for Meares Island, the Friends of Clayoquot Sound, had representatives (special thanks to Hank Stirland and Lucy Alderson) at (peaceful) demonstrations, circulated petitions, written letters, met with officials and helped publicize the issue through the Newsletter and feature editorials in local newspapers.

#### Other Concerns

Four other issues have received some attention and discussion. (i) The future of the Akamina/Kishinina area in southeast B.C. continues to hold our attention. We held a special meeting, wrote letters to officials and continue to monitor it. Special thanks to Bob Ogilvie for input in this area. (ii) The management of the Burgess Shales in Yoho National Park has also been of concern. Bob Peart has written letters and met with officials on behalf of the Chapter. (iii) The privatization of services in the B.C. Provincial Park System continues to generate considerable discussions. Our general policy has been not to get involved *unless* the "reorganization" appears that it will affect park quality. There are now some indications that this may become a major issue. Regular meetings between the Executives of the Provincial Parks Branch, the Outdoor Recreation Council, and our representative have been inaugurated and should prove helpful in addressing these issues. (iv) Small-scale hydro-electric developments have taken place in Rogers Pass and the Kicking Horse. These are a worry not only in themselves but also because of their precedent for other National Parks. The Chapter Executive has met with officials, written letters and contributed articles to *Park News* on the topic.

#### Briefs

Several members have contributed timely letters and valuable briefs:

National Parks Marine Parks Policy - input from Al Whitney, Bruce Downie, Bob Peart, Philip Dearden and Dennis Gourdeau.

Recreational Access in British Columbia (Keith Brown) - a detailed analysis of the Outdoor Recreation Council report on access.

Glacier/Mt. Revelstoke National Park Master Plans - reviewed by Bob Peart and Rick Searle.

Nahanni options - (the executive).

Four Mountain Parks options - (the executive).

Finally a special thank you to all members who have contributed time, effort and money to the Chapter over the past year including regular executive meeting attendees Bob Peart, Bruce Downie, Lucy Alderson, Jean Hnytko, Rick Searle, Dennis Gourdeau, Helen Tremaine, Hank Stirland and Bob Ogilvie. Apologies for noteworthy deeds not recorded herein.

Philip Dearden

Once again the Association has been active across the length and breadth of the country. Highlights are—

A.W.L. organized and co-ordinated "The Wilderness Show" at the Harbourfront in Toronto. This first-of-its-kind exhibition was well attended, and the effort provided a sound foundation for future development. A.W.L. is to be commended for its efforts.

Early in 1984, the Board of O.C.O. stated that all Olympic alpine skiing events would be staged in Kananaskis Country and that it would not be requesting to stage any of these events within Banff National Park. Together with other groups, the Calgary/Banff Chapter and Kevin McNamee lobbied vigorously for this decision, and they are to be congratulated. However, there is some skepticism among the informed that we may be looking at this decision again in the future.

The Federal Cabinet gave approval to draft most of the suggested amendments to the National Parks Act. Hon. Charles Caccia has publicly stated that he supports amending this legislation during the 1985 Centennial Year. These first hurdles in this campaign were successfully crossed because of a co-ordinated lobbying effort NPPAC

organized among the major conservation groups in Canada. (Note: The Cabinet suspended making a decision concerning 'legislated wilderness areas within National Parks' and 'the suspension of transportation and energy corridor proposals through National Parks'.)

The Northern Committee and Anne Champagne produced the Information Kit concerning a system of Conservation Lands in the North. These kits will be most useful in this campaign.

The affiliation with the Newfoundland Wilderness Society continues to function well. Jon Lien, working with both groups, organized the A.G.M. '84 held in Terra Nova National Park, August 17-19, organized around the theme of Marine Parks.

Jon Lien and John Marsh made a detailed submission on the draft Marine Parks Policy during public hearings held on that document.

An affiliation with the Islands Protection Society has been formed, and lobbying for adequate protection of South Moresby Island is continuing.

Land acquisition for the Grasslands National Park has begun. The Saskatchewan Chapter continues to monitor this situation closely.

The B.C. Parks Symposium was held during February. The B.C. Chapter is to be commended for its role in organizing this important and timely conference.

Colin Wood has accepted to serve as editor of *Park News* from June, 1984, through May, 1987. A B.C. based Editorial Committee has been formed, and the review of the format and operation of *Park News* is being carried out by this Committee. I would like to thank John Marsh, Bruce Downie and others for their efforts in this regard, and I would particularly like to welcome Colin to this position with the Association.

The winter issue of *Park News* on a historical theme and the spring issue on a theme of wilderness trips were produced and distributed on schedule. I am sure that all will join with me in thanking John Marsh for his contributions as editor of *Park News* over the past five years.

Anne Champagne has produced two highly informative articles concerning the Slave River Dam proposal and its impact on Wood Buffalo National Park. She is also in the process of organizing a special issue of *Park News* concerning this dam proposal and other critical management issues currently affecting WBNP.

Jim Gardner, Leslie Adey and Kevin McNamee are currently reviewing and revising our financial accounting procedures.

Membership renewals went out on schedule and are progressing well.

Don Huff of Toronto and Graham MacDonald of Winnipeg have agreed to stand as nominees for Trustees. Jim Soper is thanked for chairing the Nomination Committee in Jennifer Shay's absence.

The Harkin Award Committee has been re-activated. It will be chaired by Bob Scace; Jim Butler has agreed to serve on the Committee, and Gordon Nelson has been asked to serve. The objective is to award the Fifth Harkin Medal to the selected candidate in Banff during the Centennial Conferences (September, 1985). The Committee is now accepting nominations, and all Chapters and Trustees are encouraged to participate in this process. Nominations should be sent to Dr. Robert Scace, 7410 Blackfoot Trail S.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2H 1M5. Phone (403) 253-3301.

A successful Annual General Meeting was held at Terra Nova Park in August. Details in the Winter Issue.—Resolutions are detailed in this issue.

J. David Henry, Past President

## Action Pages

Once again the Association has proposed Resolutions urging the appropriate Minister(s) and Agency to deal with an issue important to the development and conservation of parks. The record shows that such initiatives do have an impact on the decision makers. (In the event of a change in the Federal Government as a result of the September general election, the following resolutions will be addressed to the new Minister.)

### RESOLUTION: UPDATE NATIONAL PARKS ACT

To: The Honourable C. Caccia  
Minister of the Environment

WHEREAS a number of deficiencies in the present National Parks Act have been recognized for several years (for example, the establishment and interim protection of new national park areas, legislation of wilderness zones and the levels of penalties for violations);

AND WHEREAS the Centennial Year for National Parks, with its focus on heritage conservation and national parks could provide an occasion to have Parliament examine the National Parks Act;

BE IT RESOLVED that the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada urges the Federal Minister of the Environment to make it a priority during 1985 to develop amendments to update and strengthen the National Parks Act and to introduce them to Parliament.

Moved: Rosemary Nation  
Seconded: David Henry

### RESOLUTION: MARINE PARKS

To: The Honourable C. Caccia  
Minister of the Environment  
The Honourable H. Breau  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

WHEREAS all but two of the ten Provinces and

two Territories touch on large bodies of marine and fresh water;

WHEREAS the marine and fresh water habitats have contributed significantly to the cultural and natural heritage of Canada;

WHEREAS educational research has documented the fact that marine and fresh water curricula are non-existent in Canada;

WHEREAS Parks Canada has circulated for public participation a draft Marine Parks Policy describing a marine parks system to be established in Canadian waters;

BE IT RESOLVED that the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada:

1. urge the Federal Cabinet to adopt a marine parks policy;
2. urge that Parks Canada utilize the Centennial Year to its greatest extent to implement an information program for the purpose of educating the Canadian public about the potential of a national marine parks system;
3. urge that Parks Canada establish and announce a minimum of four new national marine parks simultaneously (specifically one in each of the Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic and Great Lakes regions) rather than their present policy of one "pilot" marine park, and at the same time Parks Canada, with Provincial governments, move to extend declared marine components in existing natural parks to encompass marine parks as a component of the existing parks;
4. urge that the appropriate Federal and Provincial agencies, in conjunction with the National and Provincial Parks Association and other interested organizations, arrange for the development of an education program for curricula adoption in the Canadian school system to raise the understanding of Canada's maritime environment and its influence on our cultural and natural history.

*Moved:* Jon Lien

*Seconded:* Bob Graham

#### **RESOLUTION: GROS MORNE PROPOSED TRAMWAY**

To: The Honourable C. Caccia  
Minister of the Environment  
The Honourable L. Simms  
Newfoundland Minister of Culture,  
Recreation and Youth

WHEREAS Gros Morne National Park is an outstanding National Park on the west coast of Newfoundland;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada and the Province of Newfoundland signed an agreement on the establishment of Gros Morne that provided for economic benefits to the local community;

WHEREAS the Atlantic Region office of Parks Canada has endorsed the construction of a ground tramway/gondola for Gros Morne;

BE IT RESOLVED that the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada and the Wilderness Society of Newfoundland and Labrador:

1. urge Parks Canada to abandon any proposal to construct such a ground tramway/gondola;
2. urge that all monies for this project be redirected to the local communities to provide an educational (interpretive) program, plus associated visitor services and

facilities, that would concentrate on Gros Morne's marine environment.

*Moved:* Philip Dearden

*Seconded:* David Rendall

#### **RESOLUTION: TERRA NOVA PARK**

To: The Honourable C. Caccia  
Minister of the Environment  
The Honourable H. Breau  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans  
The Honourable L. Simms  
Newfoundland Minister of Culture,  
Recreation and Youth  
The Newfoundland Wilderness and  
EcoReserves Advising Committee

WHEREAS at the 1983 National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada Annual Meeting a resolution was passed encouraging Parks Canada to begin the process of adding a marine component to Terra Nova National Park;

WHEREAS long-term marine research projects by Memorial University in Newman Sound and Clode Sound are being jeopardized by inadequate protection of the marine environment;

WHEREAS Parks Canada has failed to act or even acknowledge this resolution;

WHEREAS deterioration of the Beothuk Indian archaeological site, disruption of long-term co-operative research by divers and fishermen and mismanagement of the marine area of the park continues;

BE IT RESOLVED that the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada, the Wilderness Society of Newfoundland and Labrador and Parks Canada proceed with the addition of a marine component to Terra Nova National Park and simultaneously the Government of Newfoundland and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans extend interim protection under the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act and Federal habitat protection regulations, to the marine areas adjacent to Terra Nova National Park that need protection.

*Moved:* Jon Lien

*Seconded:* Bob Peart

#### **RESOLUTION: NIAGARA ESCARPMENT**

To: The Honourable W. Davis  
Premier of Ontario  
The Honourable N. Sterling  
Secretary of Resources Development

WHEREAS the Niagara Escarpment is one of southern Ontario's most outstanding natural areas;

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has studied the possibility of preserving the Niagara Escarpment for future generations for the last 15 years;

WHEREAS the Secretary for Resources Development, the Honourable Norman Sterling, has recently released a plan that will preserve the Escarpment to a high degree;

BE IT RESOLVED that the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada:

1. commend the Secretary for Resources Development for developing a plan that effectively seeks to preserve the important natural features that constitute the Niagara Escarpment, and

2. that the limit of 20,000 tonnes of mineral extraction be reinstated.

*Moved:* Peter Garstang

*Seconded:* Sondra Phillips

#### **RESOLUTION: SOUTH MORESBY**

To: The Honourable C. Caccia  
Ministry of the Environment  
The Honourable W. Bennett  
Premier of British Columbia

WHEREAS the South Moresby area of the Queen Charlotte Islands of British Columbia has been recognized as a unique natural and cultural landscape of Canada;

WHEREAS the Environmental and Land Use Committee (ELUC) of the British Columbia Cabinet has recently visited the Moresby area to gain first-hand appreciation of this special area prior to selecting a Land Use Option based on the South Moresby Resource Management Planning Team report;

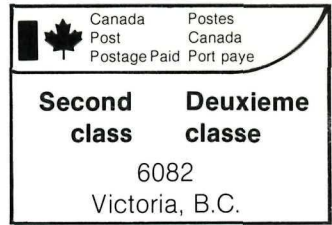
WHEREAS the Federal Minister of Environment, the Honourable C. Caccia, has communicated Parks Canada's desire to assist in ensuring the preservation of the entire South Moresby for British Columbia, Canadian and world residents;

BE IT RESOLVED that the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada and the Wilderness Society of Newfoundland and Labrador urges the British Columbia and Canadian governments to co-operate to ensure the highest protection of both the terrestrial and marine environments of this special wilderness area of Canada.

*Moved:* Philip Dearden

*Seconded:* John Broadhead





**NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL PARKS ASSOCIATION**  
Suite 313, 69 Sherbourne St., Toronto, Ontario M5A 3X7

**Second class**      **Deuxieme classe**

6082  
Victoria, B.C.

# park news