



The Canadian Heritage Rivers SYSTEM



ANNUAL REPORT
2000-2001



April 2001

*To the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers
responsible for the Canadian Heritage Rivers System:*

I present herewith on behalf of the members of
the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, the seventeenth
Annual Report on the Canadian Heritage Rivers
System (CHRS) for the fiscal year 2000-2001.

Respectfully submitted,



Don MacAulay
Chairperson
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board,
2000-2001

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Published under the authority of the Minister of the Department of Canadian Heritage on behalf of the provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for parks and tourism.

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Ben Babelowsky

Ben Babelowsky has raised more than one million dollars for local Ottawa charities through his art. After his retirement from the **Ottawa Citizen** newspaper in 1993, he focused his energies and talent on painting and raising funds through donations for his art for a wide variety of organizations including, REACH, Big Brothers, The Canadian Cancer Society and The Canadian Kidney Foundation. Many of his oil paintings and water colours have been donated to local hospitals and shelters for abused women and children.

The **Ottawa Citizen** in 1995 published a coffee table book, “**The Art of Ben Babelowsky**”, which raised considerable money for **The Ottawa Citizen Literacy Foundation**. In 1999, The **Ottawa Citizen** published a millennium calendar with 12 of Ben’s paintings. His most recent series of paintings on the Rideau Waterway, one of which is featured on the cover, was launched to celebrate the designation of the Rideau as a Canadian Heritage River.

Ben Babelowsky’s art can be found in private and corporate collections all over the world.



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Chairperson's Report

The first year of the new millennium has been a good one for Canadian Heritage Rivers, and for most rivers in Canada. Just as rivers increase in size as they travel from source to sea, the movement to renew our society's relationship with rivers has also been increasing. I have been fortunate as Chair of the CHR Board, to have travelled, for the past year, on the crest of this wave. As much as I have given to the rivers, the rivers have given ten-fold back to me in their currency of beauty, peace, and vitality.

I see individuals, communities and governments at all levels become increasingly aware of the importance of stewardship and responsibility for our rivers and waterways.

Many people have asked me over the years: "What is a Canadian Heritage River. What does designation to the system really mean?" At first I wasn't sure how to answer this except in words taken from our policy. But now I see that a Canadian Heritage River is what you, as an individual, as a community, make it. The Canadian Heritage Rivers System serves as a catalyst for governments, communities and local people to take action to protect their river, to make it a part of their community and their lives.

One new river system was nominated to the CHRS over the past year; the "Montague-Three Rivers" in Prince Edward Island. This is the second river on PEI to join the CHRS (the Hillsborough was designated in 1997), and it brings a wealth of PEI river heritage to the program. Three rivers were also recommended for designation at the CHRS Board's annual meeting – the Detroit, the La Vase Portages extension to the Mattawa, and the Main in Newfoundland.

In total, thirty-eight rivers are currently in the system with a total length of over 9,000 kilometres. Of these, thirty have been officially designated by ministers as Canadian Heritage Rivers.

There were several exciting educational and interpretive projects which took place over the past year which will help to promote the CHRS and river conservation in Canada for many years to come. The CHRS was part of the Parks Canada Round Table held in Hamilton, Ontario, a forum

to which people interested in parks and protected areas were invited from all across Canada. The CHRS was also represented at the River Management Society Biannual Meeting, the Virginia Governor's Conference on Greenways and Blueways, watersport and adventure shows including the Peterborough Heritage Canoe Festival and the CRCA Paddlesport Show. In addition, plans were set for the Third Canadian River Heritage Conference which will take place in Fredericton in June. This conference promises to be a pivotal event in the continued development of the System.

Two exciting watershed and river awareness initiatives were launched: the *River of Dreams* project and the concept of a National Rivers Day. The first, based on the book "Paddle to the Sea" by Holling C. Holling and the Bill Mason film of the same name, uses the Internet to keep track of model wooden canoes that will be launched in lakes, streams and rivers all across Canada. The National Rivers Day concept, based on the successful BC Rivers Days, also aims to raise river and watershed awareness in Canada. We will watch the development of these ideas closely over the next few years.

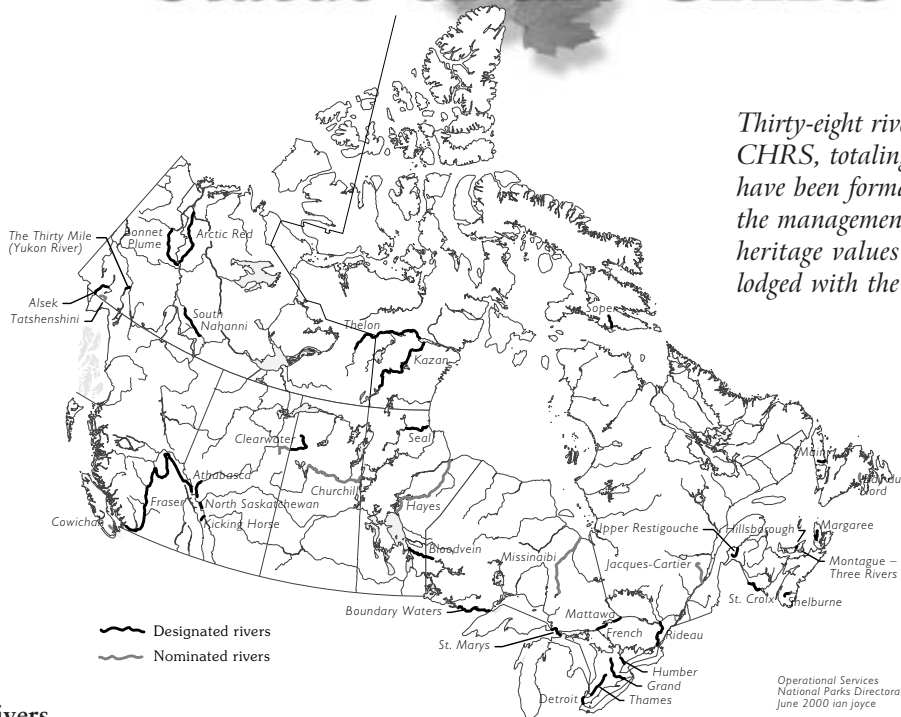
I am very optimistic about the future of the CHRS. The program is becoming integrated into the fabric of community in many parts of Canada and has strong public support. As Canada's national river conservation program, the Canadian Heritage Rivers System has a vital role to play in the future of our country's waterways.

I would like to thank all the community organizations, volunteers, planners, CHR Board members, and the Secretariat staff for their contributions to this year's achievements. It has been an honour to serve as Chair.



Chairperson
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board 2000-2001

Status of the CHRS



Thirty-eight rivers have been nominated to the CHRS, totaling 9,378 kms. Thirty of these have been formally designated, meaning that the management plans detailing how their heritage values will be protected have been lodged with the CHR Board.

Designated Rivers

River	Location Province/Territory (Park ¹)	Date of Designation	Length (in km)
French	Ontario (French River PP)	February 1986	110
Alsek	Yukon (Kluane NP)	February 1986	90
South Nahanni	Northwest Territories (Nahanni NP Reserve)	January 1987	300
Clearwater ²	Saskatchewan (Clearwater River PWP)	June 1987	187
Mattawa ³	Ontario (Mattawa PP and Samuel de Champlain PP)	January 1988	57
Athabasca ⁷	Alberta (Jasper NP)	January 1989	168
North Saskatchewan ⁷	Alberta (Banff NP)	January 1989	49
Kicking Horse ⁷	British Columbia (Yoho NP)	January 1990	67
Kazan	Nunavut	July 1990	615
Thelon	Nunavut	July 1990	545
St. Croix	New Brunswick	January 1991	185
Yukon - The Thirty Mile ⁷	Yukon	January 1992	48
Seal	Manitoba	June 1992	260
Soper ⁵	Nunavut (Kataniilik Territorial Park Reserve)	June 1992	248
Arctic Red	Northwest Territories	September 1993	450
Grand ⁶	Ontario	January 1995	627
Boundary Waters/Voyageur Waterway	Ontario (La Verendrye/Quetico/Middle Falls PPs)	September 1996	250
Hillsborough	Prince Edward Island	January 1997	45
Shelburne	Nova Scotia	June 1997	53
Bonnet Plume ⁶	Yukon	February 1998	350
Upper Restigouche	New Brunswick	February 1998	55
Bloodvein ⁴	Manitoba (Atikaki PP), Ontario (Woodland Caribou PP)	June 1998	306
Margaree ⁵	Nova Scotia	June 1998	120
Fraser ⁶	British Columbia	June 1998	1375
Humber ⁶	Ontario	February 1999	100
Rideau	Ontario (Rideau Waterway - Parks Canada)	February 2000	202
Thames ⁶	Ontario	February 2000	273
St. Marys	Ontario	February 2000	125
Detroit	Ontario	February 2001	51
Main	Newfoundland	February 2001	57
TOTAL			7368

- 1 PP denotes provincial parks.
NP denotes national parks.
PWP denotes provincial wilderness park.
- 2 Clearwater River has been nominated in two sections by Saskatchewan and Alberta.
- 3 Extensions to the Mattawa were added in 2001, including the 11 km historic La Vase Portages connecting the headwaters to Lake Nipissing, as well as a downstream extension to its confluence with the Ottawa River.
- 4 Bloodvein River (Manitoba section) was designated in 1987.
- 5 Includes mainstream and major tributaries.
- 6 Includes entire watershed.
- 7 Includes a segment of the river.

Nominated Rivers

River	Location Province/Territory (Park)	Anticipated Designation Date	Length (in km)
Missinaibi	Ontario (Missinaibi PP)	February 2002	426
Clearwater ²	Alberta	February 2002	139
Cowichan	British Columbia	February 2002	47
Bay du Nord	Newfoundland (Bay du Nord Wilderness Park Reserve)	February 2003	75
Jacques-Cartier ⁷	Quebec (Jacques-Cartier PP)	February 2003	128
Hayes	Manitoba	February 2003	590
Tatshenshini	Yukon	February 2003	45
Montague-Three Rivers	Prince Edward Island	February 2004	73
Churchill	Saskatchewan	to be determined	487
TOTAL			2010

Total km of nominated & designated rivers

9378



Status of the CHRS Strategic Plan

MISSION Our mission, to be achieved by 2006, is to:

*Develop a river conservation program that is nationally valued, internationally recognized, and reflects the significance of rivers in the identity and history of Canada; and
Ensure that the natural, cultural and recreational values for which rivers are designated are managed in a sustainable manner.*

The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board continued over the past year to implement and evaluate the CHRS's Ten Year Strategic Plan. 2001 represents the fifth year anniversary of the Strategic Plan which has guided the program's development. The Strategic Plan identifies four key strategic issues which are the foundation for organizing actions towards achieving our mission by 2006: actively managing and completing the system, communications, leadership and resourcing.

Some of the achievements in 2000-2001 towards these four initiatives include the following:

Actively Managing and Completing the System

- Completion of Ten Year Monitoring Reports for the Bloodvein (Manitoba section), Kazan, Thelon and St. Croix Rivers.
- Nomination of the Montague-Three Rivers.
- Management plans prepared for the Detroit, LaVase and Main Rivers.
- Commencement of the Tatshenshini River Management Plan.
- Commencement of Background Study on the Coppermine River.
- Completion of natural and cultural framework documents.
- Completion of revised CHRS Principles, Procedures and Operational Guidelines.
- Revision and implementation of integrity guidelines.
- Discussion paper on Classification of Canadian Heritage Rivers.

Communications

- Plaque unveiling ceremonies held for the Thames and St. Marys Rivers.
- Planning and organizing the Third Canadian River Heritage Conference in Fredericton, New Brunswick for June, 2001.
- Endorsement of the concept of a National Rivers Day in Canada.
- Agreement to provide seed funding for the implementation of the *Rivers of Dreams* project.
- CHRS displays, literature and presentations at national and international events including the River Management Society Biannual Meeting, the Virginia Governor's Conference on Greenways and Blueways, watersport and adventure shows including the Peterborough Heritage Canoe Festival and the CRCA Paddlesport Show.
- Production of the 2001 Heritage Rivers calendar.
- Revision and update of the "Discover Adventure on a Canadian Heritage River" brochure.
- Update CHRS Website on an ongoing basis.
- Good Earth Production series on Canadian rivers including 9 rivers in the CHRS.
- Official sponsor of the Waterwalker Film Festival.

Leadership

- Federal, provincial and territorial Ministers continue to affirm their governments' commitment to the Heritage Rivers Program through the CHRS Charter.
- Completion of fourth annual review and update of the strategic plan, including the review of trends and issues of strategic significance for the CHRS.
- Adjust the strategic planning policy and procedures (calendar, reports and process) to optimize the use of the strategic plan as the key management document for the CHR Board.
- The CHRS Technical Planning Committee continues to be active in undertaking tasks defined by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board including the review of nomination documents, management plans and Ten Year Monitoring Reports.

Resourcing

The CHRS Finance Committee continues to deal with resourcing issues and budget items.



Max Finkelstein

Conclusion

The Strategic Plan continues to be a very useful tool for the Board in overseeing the CHRS program and developing a blueprint for the future. Public reaction to the plan has been positive. Results of the Strategic Plan will be reported in each annual report and copies of the plan can be obtained from the Secretariat or any participating agency on the Board. 🍁



The Canadian Heritage Rivers System

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System is Canada's national program for freshwater heritage conservation. It is a co-operative program of the governments of Canada, all ten provinces and three territories. The objectives of the program are to give national recognition to Canada's outstanding rivers and to ensure long-term management that will conserve their natural, historical and recreational values for the benefit and enjoyment of Canadians, now and in the future.

One of the fundamental principles of the CHRS is that the nomination and management of Canadian Heritage Rivers remain with the responsible government. Generally, this is the provincial governments in the south, the federal government in national parks or on other federal lands and the federal and territorial governments jointly in the north. ❁



Ministers Responsible for the CHRS (2000-2001)

The Honourable Sheila Copps
Minister of Canadian Heritage
Government of Canada

The Honourable Robert Nault
Minister of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development
Government of Canada

The Honourable Kevin Aylward
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Honourable Greg Deighan
Minister of Tourism
Government of Prince Edward Island

The Honourable David Morse
Minister of Environment and Labour
Government of Nova Scotia

The Honourable Jeannot Volpé
Minister of Natural Resources and Energy
Government of New Brunswick

L'honorable Guy Chevrette
Minister of Wildlife and Parks
Government of Quebec

The Honourable John C. Snobelen
Minister of Natural Resources
Government of Ontario

The Honourable Oscar Lathlin
Minister of Conservation
Government of Manitoba

The Honourable Buckley Belanger
Minister of Environment and Resource Management
Government of Saskatchewan

The Honourable Gene Zwozdesky
Minister of Community Development
Government of Alberta

The Honourable Ian Waddell
Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks
Government of British Columbia

The Honourable Dale Eftoda
Minister of Renewable Resources
Government of Yukon

The Honourable Joseph Handley
Minister of Resources, Wildlife
and Economic Development
Government of the Northwest Territories

The Honourable Olayuk Akesuk
Minister of Sustainable Development
Government of Nunavut

The Board

The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board (the Board) reviews nominations and recommends whether a nominated river meets selection criteria to the federal Minister responsible for Parks Canada and to the provincial/territorial Minister of the nominating government.

The Board consists of one representative from Parks Canada, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) and each of the participating provincial and territorial governments. British Columbia and New Brunswick are represented on the Board by private citizens.

A Chairperson is elected for each fiscal year from among the Board's members and is responsible for organizing and chairing Board meetings, directing the operation of the Secretariat, and promoting public awareness of the CHRS. The 2001-2002 Chairperson will be Harry Collins, Director of the Miramichi Environmental Assessment Committee in New Brunswick. 🍁

2000-2001 Board Members

Don MacAulay, 2000-2001 Chairperson
(Saskatchewan)

Heather MacLellan (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Doug Murray (Prince Edward Island)

John Leduc (Nova Scotia)

Harry Collins (New Brunswick)

Michel Damphousse (Quebec)

Adair Ireland-Smith (Ontario)

Gordon Prouse (Manitoba)

Fred Moffatt (Alberta)

Mark Angelo (British Columbia)

Jim McIntyre (Yukon)

Gerry LePrieur (Northwest Territories)

David Monteith (Nunavut)

Céline Gaulin (Parks Canada)

Jill Jensen (Indian Affairs and Northern
Development)

CHRS Staff

Don Gibson, National Manager

Max Finkelstein, Marketing and Publicity

Brian Grimsey, Senior Planner

Wayne Roach, Technical Support



Parks Canada

River Nomination Process

Becoming a Canadian Heritage River is a two-step process – nomination and designation. Public involvement is integral to both river nomination and designation.

Submissions and Public Involvement

The river nomination process begins with community-based initiatives to recognize and protect a local river. These initiatives come from a variety of sources such as landowners, recreational, historical or tourism associations, Aboriginal peoples, environmental groups, local businesses, and interested members of the public. The first step is to present a submission to the federal, provincial or territorial Board member(s) for any river a group or individual feels is worthy of inclusion in the CHRS.

Selection

The responsible government(s) evaluates submissions based on the river's natural, cultural and recreational values, the representation of these values in the CHRS program and the level of public support for the nomination. Selection usually involves an analysis of the number and complexity of conflicting land uses and the costs that effective management of the river corridor would entail.

Nomination

If the responsible government(s) decide to pursue the nomination, work is carried out cooperatively with stakeholder groups to prepare and submit a nomination document to the Board. The document contains all information necessary to show that the river is of outstanding Canadian value, as defined by the CHRS guidelines, and that sufficient measures will be put in place to ensure that all those values will be maintained. The Board then reviews the nomination and makes its recommendation to the federal Minister responsible for Parks Canada and the appropriate Minister(s) of the nominating government(s). 🍁

River Designation Process

Submission of Management Plan

The river designation process begins when the Board member representing the nominating government submits a management plan to the Board. The management plan sets out the policies and practices to be followed to ensure that the river's development, management and use are consistent with CHRS objectives and guidelines. Although extensions may be granted when necessary, the plan is normally tabled within three years of the Board's acceptance of the river nomination.

Designation

Once a management plan is lodged with the Board, the Chairperson advises the federal Minister responsible for Parks Canada and the Minister(s) responsible for the nominating government agencies that the requirements for designation have been met. The Ministers will then formally designate the river by unveiling a plaque at a key location on the river and by signing a ceremonial text to be included in the official CHRS registry book. Designation of a river to the CHRS ensures that the river will be managed in a way that will conserve the outstanding heritage resources for which the river was nominated and that its recreational potential will be realized. 🍁





River Designations and Nominations in 2000-2001

This past year was another one of fast growth for the CHRS with two new designations, the Main in western Newfoundland, and the Detroit River in southern Ontario. In addition, there was an extension to an existing designation, the Mattawa River in Ontario, to include the historic La Vase Portages. One new nomination, the Montague-Three Rivers system in Prince Edward Island, was approved.



Designations

Detroit River: Link Between Two Great Lakes

The Detroit River is unique in the CHRS. It is Canada's first international river to have dual designations – as a Canadian Heritage River and an American Heritage River. The two programs, though they share a similar name, have different objectives. However, the fact that the Detroit merited heritage designation from both the countries that share it, augers well for its future.

The Detroit passes through the largest metropolitan area along the world's longest undefended border. It is one of the busiest inland waterways in the world, with over 8,000 freighters travelling up and down the river each year. The Detroit was nominated based on its rich history and outstanding recreational values. Cultural resources abound along its shores. From historic Fort Malden, which played an important role in Canada's development as a nation, the historic town of La Salle, where the French heritage of the first settlers in this area is still strong, to the "Underground Railroad", the route to freedom for thousands of black slaves, and the Wyandot Indian Cemetery, there is a wealth of history to be explored.

The Detroit is one of the most popular boating rivers in North America, and marinas are found all along the river. These historical and recreational resources would not exist without the outstanding natural values of the river. Unfortunately, many of these have been degraded over the past 300 years, but it is hoped that the CHRS designation will be a catalyst for igniting communities on both sides of the river to continue to work together to restore the Detroit's rich natural habitat and fish resources.

Main River: Out of the Long Range Mountains

The Main River, tumbling from the Long Range Mountains to the sea, provides a heart-stopping roller-coaster ride for whitewater paddlers. But the Main is much more than rapids. Its watershed harbours a unique boreal forest that has not been disturbed by fire, insect infestation, or blow-down for centuries. The Main also harbours one of the last remaining populations of the endangered pine marten. The cold, oxygen-rich waters of the Main and its tributaries are home for one of the largest remaining runs of Atlantic salmon. Moose, woodland caribou, black bear and lynx thrive in its forests. The wetlands of the "Big Steady", among the richest on the island, harbour abundant shore birds and waterfowl. It is easy to see why the nomination of the Main was based on its outstanding natural values and recreational potential.

The management plan for the Main seeks to strike a balance between harvesting its forests, while at the same time protecting the ecological integrity of its unique and rich ecosystems, and ensuring that the aesthetic values of the river are not degraded.

La Vase Portages and Mattawa River Extensions: In the Footsteps of the Voyageurs

The La Vase Portages, connecting Trout Lake at the head of the Mattawa to Lake Nipissing, was once among the busiest routes in Canada. The La Vase Portages link the Ottawa River watershed with waters draining west to Georgian Bay. It was a crucial link in the trans-continental fur trade route for almost two centuries, and was an important native travel route for millennia. Through the efforts of the North Bay – Mattawa Conservation Authority and the Restore the Link Committee, modern travellers may once again follow this historic route, portaging in the footsteps of Mackenzie, Champlain, David Thompson, Radisson and des Groseilliers, and all the rest who went west to make their fortunes or follow their dreams.

Nominations

Montague-Three Rivers: Island Gem

Prince Edward Island may be most famous as the home of Anne of Green Gables, but rivers are an integral part of the island's heritage. The Montague-Three Rivers system includes the Cardigan, Brudenell and Montague/Valleyfield rivers, flowing into Cardigan Bay on Northumberland Strait via three long, finger-like tidal estuaries.

The nomination of these rivers to the CHRS is based on their rich cultural values and the recreational opportunities they offer. Typical of all rivers on the island, farming and settlement has significantly altered these rivers, and precludes their nomination based on natural heritage values. Despite this, the Montague-Three Rivers system includes a variety of unspoiled habitats and shorelines, including salt marshes, sandy beaches, and mixed woods. Migrating waterfowl frequent the estuary, and trout and salmon live and breed throughout the watershed.

But it is the cultural values of the watershed that clearly make it outstanding in Canada. Scrapers and spear points found in the area show that it was long used by the Mi'kmaq before the arrival of Europeans. When the first Europeans did arrive, Montague-Three Rivers, emptying into one of the best harbours in North America, quickly became a centre of settlement and commercial fishing. The river was the site of one of the first French settlements on Prince Edward Island, the Jean Pierre Roma Settlement of 1732. It quickly grew into the most important node of European civilization on Prince Edward Island. All roads on PEI at that time led to Montague-Three Rivers.

In 1790, one of the first ferry services in Canada began here. The remains of early ferry docks can still be seen. In the 1840s, a thriving shipbuilding industry was centred here, and the fine natural harbour attracted commercial fishermen from up and down the east coast of Canada and the US. The first hydroelectric dam on PEI started producing electricity in 1899 in the area.

The recreational potential of this river system is also outstanding. The rivers are navigable by canoe for over 52 km, a long distance by PEI standards. There are several excellent sand beaches, trails, including the Confederation Trail, PEI's longest multi-use trail, and three Scenic Heritage Roads. Fishing for speckled trout, Atlantic salmon, and gasperaux, a common bait fish, are popular activities. 🍁



La Vase Portages, circa: 1860

Parks Canada



State of the Rivers: Canadian Heritage Rivers in 2000-2001

The rivers in this section are now listed alphabetically for easier reference.



Alsek River

Kluane National Park, Yukon (1986)

“River of Rock and Ice”

2000 saw the continuation of the spruce bark beetle outbreak in Kluane National Park (KNP), centred in the Alsek River valley. This natural event, associated with a large beetle outbreak in Alaska, has resulted in extensive stands of dead white spruce in the upper Alsek Valley. The outbreak may be an indication of environmental stress associated with global climate change. While spruce bark beetle infestations have occurred in the region before there has been no record of one as extensive as this current outbreak.

The review of the Park Management Plan continued through 2000. It is anticipated the plan will receive approval in 2001.

The Yukon Energy Corporation has applied for the re-licencing of an existing hydro facility at Aishihik Lake, 50 kilometres northeast of Haines Junction, Yukon. The dam was constructed and operated for the last 23 years under a water licence that expires in 2002. Yukon submitted a Project Description/Environmental Impact Statement in 1999. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are responsible authorities under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* for this project. Public consultation and a decision on the licence will continue into 2001.

The Village of Haines Junction has applied for a water licence for water and waste water purposes. The previous licence provided for tertiary water treatment through the Dezadeash River wetlands in Kluane National Park. Discussions between the Village of Haines Junction and Parks Canada have started regarding the licence application. A preliminary agreement

has been reached between the parties that any waste water discharged into Kluane National Park should meet Federal Wastewater Guidelines as a minimum. This standard has been met by previous effluent discharges but has not been a condition of the licence. The Village of Haines Junction has indicated a strong interest in working with Parks Canada to ensure stewardship of the waters of the Alsek River system.



Arctic Red River

Northwest Territories (1993)

“River of the Gwichya Gwich'in”

Specific work on the Arctic Red River slowed somewhat last year, as the attention of Gwich'in and government officials continued to focus on completing a N.W.T. Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) and the Gwich'in Land Use Plan. In the draft Gwich'in Land Use Plan, the land adjacent to the whole length of the Arctic Red has been identified as a Special Management Area.

This temporary resource shift has been a very positive development. Having a territorially and likely federally approved PAS adds another layer of potential protection to areas such as the Arctic Red River. The area's rich mixture of Dall's sheep, woodland caribou, grizzly bears, 700 year-old white spruce, to say nothing of its archeological and cultural significance may require the strongest forms of stewardship available.

Within the framework of the Heritage Rivers system and the PAS, additional protection of the Arctic Red River area will likely progress over the next several years.

Athabasca River

Jasper National Park, Alberta (1989)

“Out of the Ancient Ice”

The Athabasca River corridor is a defining feature of Jasper National Park of Canada for the vast majority of park visitors, from its headwaters at the Columbia Icefield, to the sand dune-scapes of Jasper Lake. Modern transportation features and visitor nodes retrace historic and pre-historic trade routes, and offer abundant opportunities to experience the Heritage River. The state of health of the Athabasca is indicative of the ecological integrity of the Park. Its aesthetic virtues are undisputed; at the same time, our understanding is growing that past management practices and the development of transportation infrastructure has affected natural processes and imposed stress on natural ecosystems.

Parks Canada has produced a new 2001 *Jasper National Park of Canada Management Plan* which identifies opportunities to improve the integrity of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Recognizing a historic bias of attention to terrestrial ecosystems, the plan signals the intention to improve integrity for aquatic ecosystems. It prescribes 14 specific actions related to aquatic ecosystem management, restoration, and communication. The park management plan and the new *Canadian National Park Act* re-affirm Parks Canada's commitment to protecting or restoring the ecological integrity of the river and its surrounding landscapes.

Sewage treatment for the Community of Jasper continues to be the primary management concern for the Athabasca. Nutrient enrichment caused by effluent reduces water quality and changes biotic community structure. Jasper municipal authorities have assumed responsibility for construction and operation of a new facility, as part of a newly-negotiated community self-government arrangement. ‘Leadership targets’ for effluent quality are prescribed in the Park Management Plan. A University of Alberta Ph.D. candidate has documented baseline conditions and developed monitoring protocols for measuring the response of the river biota to changing nutrient levels. The performance of the new facility will be measured not only by effluent quality, but also in terms of ecological reaction.

Other researchers from the University of Alberta have examined the effects of various impoundments and water diversions on the Athabasca flood plain, associated with transportation infrastructure. Interim reports have been produced, and recommendations to Parks Canada will be forthcoming.

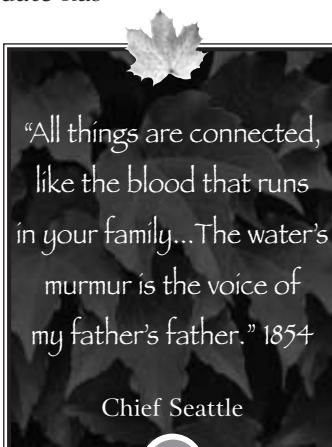
Routine maintenance for transportation and utility infrastructure along the Athabasca River corridor is subject to environmental review to ensure appropriate environmental protection measures are in place. In these matters, Parks Canada has access to additional expertise with the recent enhanced presence of Fisheries and Oceans Canada staff in Alberta.

A natural gas transmission line supplying the town of Jasper ruptured in winter 2000-2001 due to shifting riverbed sediments. Emergency repairs relocated the gas line out of the active part of the river floodplain. Engineering assessments of the rest of the gas line and the nearby Trans Mountain oil pipeline identified other places where the constantly-shifting river channel may cause problems in future, and projects are currently underway to address those issues before they become acute.

In 2001, Parks Canada and Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge collaborated on an ecological restoration project to remove a long-standing weir originally installed to stabilize the water level on Lac Beauvert, a scenic lake adjacent to the resort. Monitoring shows that the outlet stream is an important rearing habitat for ling cod native to the Athabasca River, and that bull trout, rainbow trout, whitefish, suckers and other species are now moving freely back and forth between the river and the lake. Building on the demonstrated success of this initiative, other restoration projects to restore the connectivity of streams entering the Athabasca River are now in the planning stage.

Private and commercial recreational river use remains popular and Jasper National Park continues to implement the *Jasper National Park Guidelines for River Use Management* to protect the river environment and minimize user conflict. The Guidelines require monitoring of use levels and user satisfaction. No monitoring took place in 2001.

Progress on implementation of Key Actions of the 2001 Park Management Plan related to aquatic ecosystems and other initiatives will be reported annually.



Bloodvein River

Atikaki Provincial Park, Manitoba (1987)
Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, Ontario (1998)

"Deep in the Heart of the Land"

Manitoba Portion

A Monitoring Report was completed for the Bloodvein which covered the period 1987-2000. The report evaluated changes to the river's nomination values and the implementation of the 1986 management plan. A number of highlights were noted, including the removal of three outcamps and caches from the corridor by Manitoba Conservation. The report concluded that the Bloodvein River is worthy of continued designation as one of national significance in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

Work continued on the management plan for Atikaki Provincial Park. A draft plan was prepared and reviewed within government and a final round of public consultation is planned for September, 2001. The management plan will replace the 1986 Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River management plan and provide long term direction for protection and management of its natural and cultural resources.

A strategy was prepared to determine the need for managing recreational use of Atikaki Provincial Park. Phase I involves the use of a survey to measure visitor perceptions and experiences of their time spent in the park. Participants will also be asked to indicate their canoe route(s) and campsites on an attached map. Phase I will be implemented this year, while Phase II, monitoring of physical visitor impacts on portages and campsites, will be undertaken later. While the survey seeks information on all canoe routes within Atikaki, the Matheson Island ferry which links the Bloodvein First Nation community at the mouth of the river to the nearest major highway will be a major distribution point. Data on parties canoeing the Bloodvein River should be captured in this manner.

Woodland caribou are a species of particular interest and importance in Manitoba and the Sasaginnigak herd, estimated at approximately 50 animals, includes the Bloodvein River as part of its range. Work progressed on the caribou management plan. Radio collaring, habitat assessment and public education efforts are all part of the plan to help in the management of the area and ensure the survival of Woodland caribou.

Ontario Portion

The Bloodvein River experienced no major changes in the past year. Woodland Caribou Provincial Park planning was initiated by the completion of Earth and Life science inventories. Peisk Lake, the headwater lake of the Bloodvein River, continues to be considered for addition to the park. Recreation inventories will be undertaken to document natural values providing recreation opportunities, identify new opportunities and document existing use. The Ontario government continues to work co-operatively with the Manitoba government, and an inter-provincial park remains an option for the area.

Bonnet Plume River

Yukon (1998)

"River of Black Sands"

There have been no changes to the status of the heritage features on the Bonnet Plume River.

As an integral part of the Management Strategy, base-line wildlife, habitat and fisheries studies were completed on the upper section of the river watershed.

Boundary Waters/Voyageur Waterway

La Verendrye/Quetico/Middle Falls Provincial Parks, Ontario (1996)

"The Singing Wilderness"

In its fourth year as a designated Canadian Heritage River, the Boundary Waters/Voyageur Waterway (BWVW) experienced changes in both recreational and natural heritage values. Habitat which was altered as a result of a severe windstorm that swept through the area on July 4, 1999 was further altered by successful controlled burning near Knife Lake. The windstorm negatively affected recreational values by restricting visitor use of the area. As a result of controlled burning, the fire hazard has been somewhat reduced requiring a restricted fire zone to be in place only between April 1 and June 15, 2001.

The Friends of Quetico will be offering guided canoe outings in historic voyageur replica canoes from Quetico's day-use area. Costumed guides will organize the trips. Although the outings will not take place in the Heritage River portion of Quetico, the Voyageur theme and Canadian Heritage River designation will be promoted through this and other interpretive programs.



Boundary Waters/Voyageur Waterway

Parks Canada

Clearwater River

Clearwater River Provincial Wilderness Park, Saskatchewan (1987)

"Link to the North"

The Clearwater River, a pristine wilderness river 85 kilometers north of the community of La Loche, was once a major thoroughfare equivalent to a modern day Trans-Canada Highway. Today it is occasionally visited by canoeists, whitewater rafters and local trappers.

One of the notable cultural features of the Clearwater is that people still practice a traditional lifestyle in the area. When the river was designated as a Canadian Heritage River and Saskatchewan's first wilderness park was established to protect its special values, provision for the continuation of this traditional use was made in the management plan. Provision was made for the entry of new traditional

users as well. Upon the recommendation of the local Fur Council, bona fide trappers would be issued Traditional Resource Use Permits to allow construction of a trapper's cabin in the park at a mutually acceptable location. Over the years recreational users have respected the property and livelihood of the traditional users.

With falling fur prices, less trapping activity and associated sustenance fishing has been occurring in the park. At the same time, interest in the use of the park by area residents has increased with requests for more traditional trapping cabins, an ecotourism lodge and the creation of a village. To emphasize some requests, road blockades have been used. Balancing individual, community and the conservation needs of the Clearwater River will require the building of stronger community ties and common stewardship goals.

Fraser River

British Columbia (1998)

"Where the Salmon is King"

The Fraser River Basin, the area drained by the Fraser River and its tributaries, is of great environmental, economic and social value in the province and worldwide. It covers more than 25% of British Columbia's land area and is home to 2.6 million people. Activities in the Basin contribute 80% of the province's gross domestic product and 10% of Canada's gross national product. The Basin's forests cover nearly three times the area of New Brunswick, and its farms, ranches and orchards comprise half of all British Columbia's agricultural lands. There are eight major producing mines, as well as some of the province's – and the world's – most spectacular natural beauty and recreational opportunities.

The Basin also boasts the world's most productive salmon river system, supporting five salmon species and 57 other species of fish, including steelhead and giant sturgeon. It is British Columbia's most productive waterfowl breeding area, and more than 300 species of birds and many species of mammals make use of the Basin.

For thousands of years, the Basin has been home to many Aboriginal peoples, including the Halquameelem, Hun Qui Min Um, Nlaka'pamux, Secwepmec, Stl'at'imx, Tsilhqot'in, Carrier and Okanagan speaking Nations. The history, strength and diversity of Aboriginal and other communities within the Fraser Basin is fundamental to the sustainability of the Basin and reinforces the critical importance of fostering the long-term health of the Basin.

In 20 years, the population in the Fraser Basin is expected to reach 3.8 million. The question of how to balance this growth in ways that enhance social, economic and environmental health – and wealth – is an enormous challenge, an important responsibility, and an urgent priority.

The size and diversity of the Fraser Basin combined with the growth in population poses many challenges to achieving a vision of sustainability. Individuals, organizations, federal, provincial, local and First Nations governments have signed a Charter for Sustainability that sets a path for achieving sustainability of the Basin. While the vision and goals presented in the Charter apply to the entire Basin, their achievement will provide the foundation for managing the heritage river values of the mainstem Fraser River for quite some time. (For more information on the Fraser Basin Council visit their website at www.fraserbasin.bc.ca).

Strategic land use plans have been approved to address growth and are now being implemented. These government land-use planning initiatives are a cooperative way of ensuring a sustainable future for the environment, economy and communities, and are important to British Columbians as 94% of the land in British Columbia is publicly-owned Crown land managed by the provincial government. (For more information on Strategic Land Use Planning visit the Land Use Coordination Office website at www.luco.gov.bc.ca).

An intensive five-year assessment for white sturgeon in the Fraser River system that began in 1995 provided a wealth of new information on the life history, habitat utilization, movement patterns, genetics and population structure for this red listed species. While there was strong evidence of successful recruitment amongst populations from


the mainstem Fraser River, the distinct population in the Nechako River (a Fraser tributary), is not adequately recruiting and is at risk of extinction. White sturgeon, Canada's largest freshwater fish, are only found on the West Coast of North America. They can exceed 600 kg in weight and 100 years of age. As a result of this assessment the provincial fisheries program is leading a recovery program for the Nechako River white sturgeon that includes participation from the federal fisheries program, First Nations and stakeholder groups. This parallels a process being undertaken in the Columbia and the resulting recovery plans will serve as templates for other species-at-risk recovery plans.

Many interests are currently involved in developing a specific Management Plan for the Fraser River between Hope and Mission, an area often referred to as the "Gravel Reach". The Plan will provide a framework for various in-stream activities, such as dike construction, rock placement, gravel removal or shifting, and in-river infrastructure construction (e.g. bridges and pipelines). The Plan is intended to be a tool to facilitate decision-making that reconciles a number of interrelated issues including: flood and erosion protection, aquatic habitat protection, navigation, First Nations interests and land and resource use issues.

Effective management of waterborne debris in the lower Fraser River is critical to protecting foreshore infrastructure such as docks, dikes and bridges, avoiding damage to shoreline habitat, and ensuring safe navigation and recreation. In 2000 a Regional Debris Management Strategy was developed and is now being implemented.

In the fall of 2000, the Fraser Basin Council initiated the development of a set of sustainability indicators for the Basin. The social, environmental and economic indicators will provide a tool for assessing the extent to which sustainability of the Basin is being achieved and directing future planning efforts of the Council as well as government and non-government partners.

A final set of indicators is expected by the summer of 2001 with a State of the Fraser Basin Report expected in the fall of 2002.



"When you put your hand
in a flowing stream,
you touch the last that
has gone before and
the first of what is still
to come."

Leonardo da Vinci

French River

French River Provincial Park, Ontario (1986)

“In the Footsteps of the Voyageurs”

The first Ten-Year Monitoring Report for the French River was published in 1999. Over the past year consultations have continued, resulting in recommended changes in park boundaries under Ontario’s Living Legacy (OLL). The recommendations are presently under review as a result of Aboriginal land claims in the area. The recommended OLL French River Provincial Park additions include both natural heritage and recreational values. The additions will also enhance the ecological integrity of the river while adding approximately 22,405 hectares of new land to the park. As well as the French River Provincial Park additions, Restoule Provincial Park additions under OLL will provide a waterway link through a popular canoe route between Restoule Provincial Park and French River Provincial Park.

French River Provincial Park is linked to the Great Lakes Heritage Coast – one of nine Featured Areas under the OLL. The French River Provincial Park will be the location of one of the four visitor’s centres established along the Great Lakes Heritage Coast. This centre will be constructed at the existing Highway 69 crossing within a Development Zone of the park as described in the management plan. Development and operation of the centre will take several years and will involve municipal and First Nation communities.

For more information on Ontario’s Living Legacy and to obtain a copy of the Land Use Strategy you can visit the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website at www.mnr.gov.on.ca

Grand River

Ontario (1994)

“In the Heartland of Southern Ontario”

The year 2000 marked a milestone in the history and management of the Grand River, Ontario. Thanks to the conservation programs undertaken by the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) and its member municipalities over the past 60 years, the Grand River is now one of the healthiest river systems in North America in a heavily populated area. Once thought of as an “open sewer” in the 1930s, the river



Grand River Conservation Authority

is regaining its place in the watershed as the central symbol of our communities – one that is key to our economic growth and future prosperity. The sport fish are back, recreational use of the river has increased significantly and heritage is widely recognized as essential in defining not only our past and present, but our future as well. Since its designation as a Canadian Heritage River in 1994, the Grand River has received several accolades and recently earned international recognition.

In September 2000, the Grand River Conservation Authority was awarded the second international Thies Services Riverprize, the world’s most prestigious award for excellence in river management in Brisbane, Australia. The Riverprize, worth AUD \$100,000 and sponsored by Thies Services, is awarded during Brisbane’s weeklong Riverfestival. The Grand River Conservation Authority was selected as the winner from over 20 nominations, by an international panel comprising of key river management representatives from national and international organizations.

This tremendous accomplishment is testimony to all of those who believed in the vision of a healthier watershed for the people of the Grand and who worked tirelessly to achieve that goal. This honour also recognizes the recent accomplishments of the Conservation Authority in working with its partners through *The Grand Strategy*, a shared watershed management approach born out of the Canadian Heritage River designation process, to tackle pressing resource issues around the impacts of rapid development in the watershed.

The proceeds from the award were placed in an endowment fund administered by The Grand River Foundation in support of GRCA initiatives that improve river health and build community partnerships for action. An annual “Riverprize” initiative, funded by the proceeds of the Fund, will remind watershed residents and others of the international regard given to the Conservation Authority for years to come.

During 2000, several activities and events were undertaken which further advanced the goals of The *Grand Strategy*.

In March, applied research in the Grand River watershed was given a boost with the signing of an agreement between the Grand River Conservation Authority and the University of Guelph. Through this agreement, the University of Guelph formally became a partner in The *Grand Strategy*. The agreement will result in additional applied research and education opportunities for students in programs such as environmental sciences, geography, history, landscape architecture, rural planning and development, biological and land resource sciences and engineering. With better knowledge and improved information tools and technologies for predicting and monitoring the impacts of land use change and population growth on the resources of the watershed, students have an opportunity to influence current and future watershed planning and management and to get involved in new collaborative environmental projects.

The Rural Water Quality Program, delivered by the Grand River Conservation Authority, continued to encourage farmers in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and the County of Wellington to adopt best management practices to improve water quality in rural areas. Activities such as fencing cattle from streams, constructing manure storage tanks, creating stream buffers, and protecting wellheads were supported through financial incentives provided by the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, City of Guelph and Wellington County. The ultimate goal is to expand the Rural Water Quality Program throughout the watershed and to increase participation in the program.

The implementation of the Fisheries Management Plan proceeded in 2000 with the restoration of a 2.8 km cold water trout stream in Cambridge, Ontario. The project was completed with the assistance of

the City of Cambridge, the Grand River Conservation Authority, local residents, groups and companies. Several additional community-based projects undertaken through the federal EcoAction program to improve fisheries habitat on Thompson Creek, Kenny Creek and Gilbert Creek were also completed.

In 2000, Phase I of the Paris to Brantford *Exceptional Waters Program* was begun. Funded by SC Johnson and Son and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, this program is being carried out by researchers at the University of Guelph and supported by a consortium of organizations. It focuses on an 11 km stretch of the Grand River that is relatively isolated, is important for its scenic landscapes and productive fisheries and aquatic habitat, and each year sees increasing use as the area is discovered by anglers, canoeists and hikers.

The *Exceptional Waters Program* is designed to plan in advance for increased recreational use, and to undertake activities that will ensure the long term sustainability of the very resources that make this stretch of river so unique. Phase I includes scientific background research, and formulation of the first draft plan – all with the involvement of groups, individuals and participating agencies who care about preserving this unique section of river valley.

In 2000, work also began on the Watershed Forest Plan, facilitated by the Grand River Conservation Authority with the financial assistance of the Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation. The intent of the plan is to develop a framework for good management of all public and private watershed forests, and set a context for people to take action on their own lands. To encourage public input and collaboration, a series of public meetings was held. Access to forest research and information, maps and draft components of the plan was made available to the general public for review and input by means of the GRCA’s website.

In September, over 18,000 people visited the GRCA’s exhibit “*A Walk Through Your Watershed*” at the International Plowing Match held in Elora. The GRCA’s presence at the Plowing Match provided many residents with an opportunity to learn more about the designation of the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River and the Authority’s roles, activities, successes, and future challenges.

In August, Grand River watershed communities welcomed Relay 2000, which marked the official inauguration of the Trans Canada Trail. Winding its way through the heart of the Grand River watershed, the Trans Canada Trail will enhance outdoor recreational opportunities and support the special status of the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River.

The Heritage Day Workshop in February was again very successful with over 120 people in attendance. Held at the historic Cambridge Arts Theatre, the workshop focused on "*River Towns: Building on our Grand Heritage*".

A Heritage and Recreation Database Inventory was updated in 2000. The database, highlighting outstanding human heritage features and outdoor recreation experiences, builds on the inventory undertaken in 1987-88 by the Heritage Resources Centre, University of Waterloo as part of the background information necessary for the designation of the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River. The database now includes photographs, references, and national and provincial plaque texts.

During 2000, many watershed municipalities celebrated the new millennium with special projects featuring local heritage. Many of these events and activities are celebrated in the *Grand Actions* newsletter and the *Grand Actions Registry* of Accomplishments and Commitments which are available on-line at www.grandriver.ca

Hillsborough River

Prince Edward Island (1997)

"Salt Water River"

A variety of activities took place on the Hillsborough in 2000, primarily in the area of research, education and development.

The Hillsborough River Association (HRA) continues to lead a public process investigating the impact of replacing the former rail causeway (now trail) across the river at Mt. Stewart. A consultant study delved into hydrographic modeling, trophic status, wetland zones including marshes and wildlife, socioeconomics including commercial and recreational fisheries, and archaeology. Valuable data was collected on water quality and on species in the wetlands.

Public involvement increased during the year. Heritage research produced a monograph on historical wharves, ferries and ice travel. Approval was obtained for a photo-image collection project on past life along the river. Two newsletters were issued by the Association and the management plan was circulated to all schools in the watershed. A provincial development officer now sits on the Association board and is using the management plan in discussion with watershed communities. Speakers were invited to several HRA meetings during the year. Cultural and natural history subjects included Acadian structures in the Mt. Stewart saltmarsh and shellfish species in the river. Also, annual River Day festivities were held at Carrefour in Charlottetown on July 8th.

The Confederation Trail was completed across the province in 2001 including the last remaining section between Mt. Stewart and Charlottetown. On the opposite side of the river, the Town of Stratford has built 3 km. of a new community trail including a section in the Cotton Memorial Park along the river edge.

Glenfinnan Island, midway up the river, has been recognized as one of the Important Bird Areas of Canada. Preliminary studies are being done on endangered avian species in the wetlands including the Willet. Also, the announcement of the designation of Provincial Forest in 2000 included three areas within the watershed and will offer new opportunities in the future.

Humber River

Ontario (2000)

"Wild in the City"

The beginning of the new millennium was a busy time on the Humber. The "*Historic Humber River Project*" received funding approval from the Canada Millennium Partnership Program to undertake recreation, education and environmental improvement projects at a number of sites. An overall objective of the project was to increase public environmental participation and awareness by holding planting and clean-up events, trail openings, walks, fishway construction, wetland creation, interpretive hikes and community events to celebrate project accomplishments.

In May, the permanent installation of the Canadian Heritage Rivers monument was held at Étienne Brûlé Park in the lower Humber River. This celebration was part of the annual *Paddle the Humber* event (other event activities included first nation's drummers, food, historical re-enactments, and a tour of the Humber River, Old Mill and Marshes Discovery Walk). The second Discovery Walk in the lower Humber, the Lambton House Hotel and Lower Humber River Discovery Walk was finalized, creating a contemporary interpretive hike in the spirit of the First Nations trade route known as the Toronto Carrying Place Trail.

Community groups were busy all across the watershed. In King Township, in the headwaters of the Humber watershed, the Humber Watershed Alliance worked with the Nobleton Greening Society to plant 1,000 trees and shrubs. The community of Oak Ridges planted trees and shrubs as part of a shoreline naturalization project.

In Kleinburg, the completion of another 2.9 kilometres of multi-use trail and the installation of a pedestrian bridge was celebrated with a hike along the William Granger Greenway Trail. In the Town of Caledon, the McFall fishway was completed at the Bolton Community Action Site. A 324 square metre wetland was created and 150 metres of streambank were planted. Nature trails were expanded through Bolton and an observation lookout was constructed. Also in Caledon, the Caledon East boardwalk was officially opened providing a lookout and boardwalk over a headwater stream and the newly constructed 0.15 hectare wetland and hibernaculum.

In the fall, residents of the Palgrave area celebrated the completion of 1.8 kilometres of new trail and the installation of a stone monument recognizing the human heritage of the site. Work continues at the Palgrave Community Action Site with the construction of a fishway and the deepening of the historic mill pond to improve water quality and recreational opportunities.

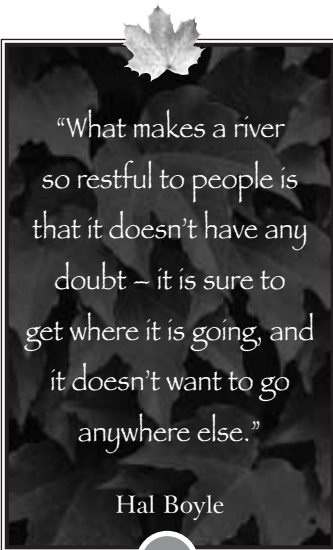
In an effort to blend history and recreation, the *Hustle Up the Humber* Triathlon was invented. The inaugural event took place in the lower Humber on October 14, 2000 as the showpiece of a fall fair. A total of fourteen teams ran, biked and paddled up and down a stretch of the historic Toronto Carrying Place Trail.

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) coordinated the planting of over 1,400 trees and shrubs and 44,400 reforestation seedlings across the watershed. Six hectares of Humber River floodplain lands were purchased and added to the over 8,500 hectares of public greenspace.

The *Images of the Humber* art exhibition is set to debut in May, 2001. All entries will be evaluated by a jury and selected pieces will be displayed at the McNair Gallery located in Black Creek Pioneer Village from May 3 to October 9, 2001.

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has partnered with other groups and agencies to help strengthen policies and programs to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine, a significant landform in the Humber. A regional monitoring network has been developed and will be used to track surface and groundwater quality as well as terrestrial resources across the watershed. A natural heritage strategy is also being finalized which will assist in assessing terrestrial habitats and establishing policies to protect and restore landscape features, vegetation communities, and plant and animal species.

The Humber Watershed Alliance, a community based volunteer task force, completed the first ever *Report Card on the Health of the Humber River Watershed* in July, 2000. The Report Card provides an important initial assessment of the health of the watershed using 28 indicators. It represents a baseline against which future watershed management progress will be measured. Top marks were given to outdoor recreation and public greenspace. The Report Card sets targets for five, ten, and twenty-five years from now, and proposes how to get there. The Humber Watershed Alliance will work with all levels of government, businesses, community groups and individuals to ensure that the Humber watershed is passed on to future generations in as good or better shape than it is now.



“What makes a river
so restful to people is
that it doesn't have any
doubt – it is sure to
get where it is going, and
it doesn't want to go
anywhere else.”

Hal Boyle

Kazan River

Nunavut (1990)

“River of the Living Barrens”

The Kazan River flows for 850 km northwards from Kasba Lake near the northern border of Saskatchewan to the south shore of Baker Lake – the geographic centre of Canada. This 5,000 km² drainage basin lies in the heart of the mainland portion of the Nunavut Territory. The upper reaches of the river traverse the transition zone between the boreal forest of black spruce and tamarack and the treeless tundra adding significantly to the diversity of the biological character of the river corridor. Below Ennadai Lake the landscape is characterized by rocky hills and plains, now rebounding from their glacial past at one of the highest rates in the world. The river course combines large lakes with wide meandering sections, narrow swift sections and waterfalls.

Most prominent of the wildlife associated with the river corridor are the caribou of the Kaminuriak herd and to a lesser extent of the Beverly herd. On their annual migration route, the Kazan lies just to the west of one of the major calving areas of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds – combined, the second largest caribou herd in the world. Other notable species in the area include the muskox which appears to be expanding its range from the core area of the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary to the northwest and increasing their numbers in the central and southern portion of the Kazan River corridor. The river corridor along with much of the mainland tundra areas is also significant for a wide variety of waterfowl species. Lake trout, grayling and whitefish are among the resident fish species.

The richness of the area, especially the relationship of the caribou to the river, accounts for the Kazan’s significance to the Inuit people. The Caribou Inuit adapted their lifestyle to the seasonal movements of the caribou and took particular advantage of the herds’ river crossing points to harvest this important source of food, clothing and shelter. The river acts as a natural barrier to the annual migration of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herd, which enabled large numbers to be killed by Inuit hunters lying in wait at preferred crossing sites. This has been recognized in the establishment of Fall Caribou Crossing National Historic Site which provides opportunities to examine the cultural meaning of the Arctic landscape to Inuit whose knowledge and experience have ensured their survival in the area for centuries.

Because of both its cultural significance and its wild and captivating natural characteristics, the Kazan River has also been attractive as a destination for wilderness river users. Such trips have incredible value as a way to appreciate the life of the early inhabitants of the area and to experience the vast and remote wilderness of the tundra.

In 2000-2001, the Department of Sustainable Development began implementing the recommendations from the Ten-Year Monitoring Report and Management Plan review of the Kazan Heritage River. The Department will be working with Baker Lake to undertake additional inventories, oral histories, and place name mapping geared towards better understanding, planning and management of the river and its uses.

Kicking Horse River

Yoho National Park, British Columbia (1989)

“River of Time”

In May of 2000, the Minister of Canadian Heritage approved the Yoho National Park of Canada Management Plan providing direction for management and protection of the Kicking Horse River as a Canadian Heritage River. Specific direction in the plan consisted of enhancing the profile of the Kicking Horse River as a Canadian Heritage River through alliances, special heritage events and publications. The plan also reaffirmed support for the maintenance of historical, natural and recreational values that led to the initial nomination of the river.

Some related changes and initiatives within the park and in the larger regional ecosystem are worthy of note. From a natural resource perspective, the very high snowpack in winter of 1999 was followed by a record low snowpack in 2000. However, neither flooding nor drought events were experienced due to weather conditions which contributed to a slow melt. Breeding bird surveys in waterbodies adjacent to the river showed similar patterns of species presence and productivity as years with “normal” snowpack conditions. Amphibian surveys were undertaken in areas adjacent to the TransCanada Highway and the Kicking Horse River to gather baseline data for monitoring the effects of the highway and to illustrate the importance of these smaller water courses.

Significant progress was made on implementation of the 1999 Field Community Plan including planning work for the upgrade to the Field Sewage Treatment Plant. Monitoring of water quality, algae and invertebrates associated with the Treatment Plant was continued in 2000. The report of the Outlying Commercial Accommodation (OCA) Panel was made public in April, 2000. Parks Canada discussed the recommendations with the operator of each OCA. Direction was provided to the Cathedral Mountain Chalets, located near the Kicking Horse River, regarding future development possibilities.

Infrastructure deterioration of frontcountry facilities near the Kicking Horse River continues to be a concern. Problems with water system and utility failures at the Hoodoo and Kicking Horse Campgrounds resulted in delayed openings. Precautions are being taken to ensure that there are no resulting impacts to the Kicking Horse River.

Although public recreation of the river remains low in the designated section within Yoho National Park, new ski hill development and related tourism activity in the community of Golden has resulted in additional commercial river use on downstream sections.

Margaree River

Nova Scotia (1998)

"Secret Pools and Tranquil Glades"

The Margaree-Lake Ainslie river system is the largest river system on Cape Breton Island. The Northeast branch is renowned for its populations of Atlantic salmon which provide excellent angling opportunities. The Southwest branch has a provincially significant gaspereau run which continues to support a traditional fishery. The rivers flow through a scenic mix of uplands and lowlands, including natural and agricultural landscapes. Approximately 30% of the land along the river is provincial crown land or protected wilderness areas, while the remaining 70% of the land bordering the river is in small private ownership, with a dynamic mix of land use activities and community life.

The Margaree-Lake Ainslie Canadian Heritage River Society, a coalition of volunteers representing the half-dozen communities in the watershed, has begun the task of implementing the Partnership Strategy under which the river received designation. With the recent completion of the Society's bylaws, volunteer

interest is on the rise, and residents are beginning to recognize the benefits and opportunities of being a Canadian Heritage River community. Meeting once a month, the Society represents a variety of community interests, and provides a forum for public concern and government cooperation in maintaining river values.

The Heritage River Society is playing a key role in supporting a local economic development, and tourism strategy, and is designing a regional signage program which will increase public understanding of river values, while providing tourists with enhanced opportunities for exploring the beautiful Margaree Valley. The Society has also worked with the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour (NSDEL) to open a Heritage River Resource Centre in the Margaree Forks Public Library, where CHRS background documents, river reports, research materials, and Heritage River Society papers will be made available to the public.

The NSDEL is encouraging coordination of water quality monitoring for the Margaree-Lake Ainslie Canadian Heritage River, and Shelburne Canadian Heritage River, which includes completion of a central database. A new hydrometric sampling station has also been purchased for installation on the NE Margaree. Additional efforts are being made to create partnerships with federal and provincial government departments, and early plans are under way for initiation of a community-based water quality monitoring program.



Sheena Masson

Recent release of a brochure outlining “Leave No Trace” principles for recreational use of provincial wilderness areas will help to minimize impacts in the four provincially protected wilderness areas adjacent to the Margaree system.

The Margaree Area Development Association (MADA) is engaged in a regional trail planning project, which will enhance hiking and access to scenic vistas throughout the valley. The Margaree Salmon Association and the Aquatic Development Association of Margaree (ADAM) are exploring ways to work together with the Heritage River Society to ensure the long term viability of the local salmon fishery. ADAM was formed in 1995 by a group of local residents who wanted to maintain operation of the nearly 100 year old Margaree Fish Hatchery. The hatchery was identified as an important river resource in the Partnership Strategy, as a focal point for both educational and community participation activities that are important to fish and habitat conservation.

Various groups are conducting interesting research on the river system. The Lake Ainslie Development Association and researchers from St. Francis Xavier University are exploring development of a water quality monitoring system for Lake Ainslie. The University College of Cape Breton is supporting research by hydrologist Fred Baechler on the effects of climate change on stream flow, and StoraEnso is modeling the effects of future forest harvesting in the highland plateau on tributary water flow of the NE Margaree.

A final highlight of the year was the featuring of the Margaree River on the Discovery Channel’s *Great Canadian Rivers*, which brought the beauty and character of autumn in the Margarees to television audiences nation wide.

Mattawa River

Mattawa River and Samuel de Champlain Provincial Parks, Ontario (1988)

“The Spirit of the Voyageurs”

Community interest in the Mattawa River has continued to grow over the past year with very strong support from the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority. The Talon Lake Cottage Association rehabilitated campsites along a section of river. Voyageur Adventure Tours carried out portage and campsite clean-ups. The first Ten-Year Monitoring Report for the Mattawa River was published in 1999.



Parks Canada

A supplementary nomination document was accepted by the CHRB in February 1999, which recommended an extension to the existing Mattawa Canadian Heritage River. The designation will include other sections of this river previously not included in the original Mattawa designation. The historic La Vase Portages are to be included in this extension. This will create a link between the Ottawa River and Lake Nipissing, which flows into the French River – another Canadian Heritage River. A Management Strategy for the La Vase Portages-Mattawa River was prepared and presented to the CHRB in February 2000.

As stated in last year’s Annual Report, consultation continued over the past year resulting in recommended changes in park boundaries under Ontario’s Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (OLL). The recommended Mattawa River Provincial Park additions include both natural heritage and recreational areas (11,300 hectares). This will add Crown lands upstream and downstream of the present park boundaries, which will be managed to contribute to the ecological sustainability of the river. Flowing into the Mattawa, the Amble du Fond River is recommended as a waterway park under OLL. This new park will provide an important canoeing link between Algonquin Provincial Park and the Mattawa River at Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park. These changes will add important ecological and recreational features to the river. Park management will enhance heritage and community values of the river system in the future.

For more information on Ontario’s Living Legacy and to obtain a copy of the Land Use Strategy you can visit the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website at www.mnr.gov.on.ca

North Saskatchewan River

Banff National Park, Alberta (1989)

“Rocky Mountain River”

The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance was recently formed to protect and improve water quality and ecosystem function in the North Saskatchewan watershed within Alberta. The group’s membership includes industry, agriculture, municipalities, government, aboriginal communities, education/research and recreation, culture and tourism groups (refer to www.nswa.ab.ca for details).

Parks Canada, Alberta Fish and Wildlife and the Alberta Conservation Association are initiating a fisheries inventory in the North Saskatchewan River this year. Water quality data continues to be monitored at Whirlpool Point.

Seal River

Manitoba (1992)

“Waves, Whales and Wolverines”

The Seal River in far northern Manitoba flows through a pristine landscape of northern transition forest and tundra. It is a river with a youthful testimony to its glacial past. Its shallow, rock strewn channel weaves along and through the huge glacial eskers that crisscross the landscape. It is a landscape that few people see. Only a handful of people travel the Seal River each year. A trip on the Seal is a difficult and costly venture due to its isolation. This isolation is one of the attributes of the Seal that helps protect its significant natural, cultural and recreational values.

In early 2000 Manitoba began to licence additional commercial canoe trip outfitters on the Seal River. A total of five outfitters were licenced for the 2000 season. However, few of these outfitters actually conducted trips on the river. Interviews with several of these operators confirmed their sensitivity to minimizing impacts along the river. Over the coming years Manitoba Conservation will work with these outfitters to refine the permit conditions and guidelines for commercial outfitting. Maintaining the pristine river environment and creating a high calibre wilderness canoeing experience for all visitors will be key objectives in that work.

Shelburne River

Nova Scotia (1997)

“Still Waters, Ancient Forests”

From its headwaters at Buckshot Lake, to the river mouth at Lake Rossignol, the Shelburne connects the major waterways of southwestern Nova Scotia in a myriad of rapids, still waters, lakes and streams. Nova Scotia’s most remote wilderness river flows 53 km from low relief, granite barrens, low heath, bogs and patchy old forest in its upper reaches, to quartzite plains, with gently rising eskers, glacial erratics, and outwash plains that support old growth softwood stands in the lower watershed. The Shelburne River is jointly managed by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, Parks Canada, Bowater Mersey Paper Company Limited and Nova Scotia Power Incorporated. A dynamic partnership has evolved between members that allows cooperation and action on important activities.

The upper reaches of the watershed are protected within the Tobeatic Wilderness Area, a large natural area comprised of 103,000 hectares of forest, bogs, glacier scoured barrens, conspicuous eskers and erratics, and interconnected lakes and rivers. The Tobeatic Wilderness Area is directly adjacent to Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada, a major partner in conservation and recreation management. The lower portions of the watershed are privately owned and managed for forestry and hydroelectric power generation purposes. Bowater and Nova Scotia Power have adopted special management practices to protect important values in the river corridor. Both companies are active partners in several related initiatives, as members of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association, a community-led project that is seeking biosphere reserve designation from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The proposed biosphere reserve includes the entire watershed of the Shelburne River.

“A river is the cosiest
of friends. You must love
it and live with it before
you can know it.”

From *Lotus Eating:*
Hudson and Rhine

G.W. Curtis

Outstanding wilderness recreation experiences are found on the Shelburne River including canoeing, camping and hiking opportunities. As interest builds, and use levels gradually rise, it is imperative to ensure that the outstanding river values of the Shelburne are maintained. To this end, a new communication program has been implemented to encourage low impact wilderness recreation in Nova Scotia. The *Keep It Wild* campaign provides detailed information of “Leave No Trace” (www.lnt.org) principles for recreational use of provincial wilderness areas to help minimize impacts in the Tobeatic Wilderness Area.

The N.S. Department of Environment and Labour (NSDEL), is facilitating the coordination of a water quality monitoring program for the Shelburne Canadian Heritage River and Margaree-Lake Ainslie Canadian Heritage River. A basic water quality monitoring program has been initiated for the Shelburne River during the past year. A permanent water sampling station has been installed, in partnership with NSDEL and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to continuously monitor water quality parameters. Additional efforts are being made to create partnerships with federal and provincial government to ensure best use of resources, and early plans are under way for initiation of a community and industry based partnership to monitor water quality.

Soper River

Katannilik Territorial Park Reserve, Nunavut (1992)

“An Arctic Oasis”

The Soper River (known in Inuktitut as the Kuujuaq, or “big river”) winds its way from the highlands of the Meta Incognita Peninsula to Soper Lake and then mixes with the salt waters of Pleasant Inlet along the south coast of Baffin Island. The valley’s microclimate has created a landscape rich with willow, sedges and heathers and berries not found elsewhere in the Arctic Islands.

The Soper runs through 1,270 km² Katannilik Territorial Park. The valley creates a thermal oasis that often enjoys temperatures well above the neighbouring communities of Kimmirut and

Iqaluit. The result is a lush greenhouse of flowering and leafy plants that creates an ecosystem that includes such wildlife as caribou, wolves, polar bear, hares, lemmings and birds such as peregrine falcon. The microclimate also supports willows over ten feet and patches of fireweed – found more commonly in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, and in the autumn, a crop of blueberries harvested by Inuit for centuries.

Testing done by the Government of Nunavut in 1999-2000 determined that the willows in the valley were growing at a rate faster than similar willows in Ontario and Alberta, and this piqued the interest of researchers from the University of Pennsylvania who specialize in dendrochronology. These researchers visited the willows in 2001, and are looking for Canadian academic and local partners to work with to further study the willows and plant life in the surrounding area.

The valley is a growing tourism destination. Canoeing is the main activity in the Park, drawing people from around the world. The largest groups come from Canada and the United States, while individuals and couples often come from European countries such as France and Germany. Trends indicate longer trips of 6-7 days are becoming more popular, and visits to the community of Kimmirut often include homestays and oceanview boat trips. These extended and add-on activities continue to increase the positive economic impact on Katannilik Park, while there appears to be no change to the continued traditional use of the Soper River valley by Inuit in the area. Both of these are desirable for the longterm sustainability of tourism and ecological integrity for the Soper River.

The Science Camp pilot project initiated in the summer of 1999, was continued and expanded in 2000. Thirty-one youth from Kimmirut aged 10-18 spent over 130 camp-nights in the Soper valley to learn more about its geology, ecosystem, wildlife (including traditional and contemporary knowledge about caribou with elders from Kimmirut), and the botanical characteristics of plants in the Soper Valley. Plans are to make this an annual event.

“A river seems a magic thing. A magic, moving, living part of the very earth itself.”

From
The Rio Grande, 1949

Laura Gilpin

South Nahanni River

*Nahanni National Park Reserve,
Northwest Territories (1987)*

“River of Legend and Lore”

2000 witnessed the launch of a new program at Nahanni National Park Reserve (NNPR). All park visitors, whether they be day-use visitors, or wilderness river travelers, visit Virginia Falls. Despite this, NNPR has never had staff on site on a regular basis to provide interpretive or information services to visitors. Through this new Aboriginal Heritage Presentation program, visitors are able to learn about Dene and Métis culture and history. Two Aboriginal youth were hired as summer students, and they researched the programs they presented by interviewing members of their families, and community elders in Nahanni Butte and Fort Simpson. This opportunity to learn more about the rich cultural traditions and historic, as well as contemporary, Aboriginal use of the region enhances visitors overall understanding and appreciation of NNPR.

Park visitation in 2000 remained relatively stable when compared to recent years. A total of 579 overnight users traveled through the park. Of this figure, 398 (69%) people participated on commercially guided trips while 181 (31%) visitors went on private trips. A total of 350 people flew to Virginia Falls for a day-use visit.

Considerable numbers of applications were received by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board for various types of industrial activity within the South Nahanni River watershed during 2000. Canadian Zinc is proceeding with plans to continue development of their mine along Prairie Creek. North American Tungsten continued seeking financial backing for a resumption of mining activity at their property near the headwaters of the Flat River. Several seismic exploration companies applied for permits to conduct oil and gas exploration activities near Nahanni Butte in the south-eastern portion of the watershed. Responding to the complex issues raised by these numerous development applications has put severe pressure on the existing personnel and fiscal resources of Nahanni National Park Reserve. The park is actively seeking support to recruit a dedicated Environmental Assessment Officer.

Ongoing negotiations between the Deh Cho First Nations (DCFN) and the Government of Canada saw much progress in the Deh Cho Process. In June 2000, the Naha Dehé Consensus Team (NDCT) was formed. This six member group was formed to work on the preparation of an Ecological Integrity Statement for NNPR, as well as to begin review of the Park Management Plan. The NDCT was also mandated with the responsibility of developing an Interim Park Management Agreement. Working more closely, and in the spirit of co-operation with the Deh Cho First Nations will allow Parks Canada to manage NNPR in a more effective and meaningful manner.

St. Croix River

New Brunswick (1991)

“Currents of History”

The St. Croix’s dual roles as a working river and natural haven are balanced by those who use and manage the system. In 2000-2001, notable gains were made in land and water planning that will have longterm benefits for the St. Croix and New Brunswick.

Following a year of intensive studies and consultations, a proposal to set quality standards for all waters in the St. Croix watershed was submitted to the NB Department of Environment & Local Government. Over the next two years this is expected to lead to formal quality protection under the province’s planned Water Classification Regulation. Nearly all of the St. Croix’s waters meet the Class A (high quality) standard.

Over 25,000 hectares of crown land bordering on the St. Croix’s largest lake, Spednic, was proposed for inclusion in the new NB Protected Areas Strategy. At designation in May 2001, the Spednic Lake forestlands and other protected areas will become permanent reserves for wildlife and backcountry recreation, free from future resource harvesting or development. On the tidewaters, local interests moved ahead boldly with a plan to purchase 134 hectares of land and beach as a public nature reserve.

Expansion plans for the regional port at Bayside and siting studies for a new international bridge across the river drew active public interest. Border communities continued to work together to prepare for the 400th anniversary of the first French settlement in North America, at St. Croix Island, with international celebrations to take place in 2004. Active planning also moved forward for a Downeast Heritage Centre that will feature the natural and cultural resources of the international St. Croix area.

The St. Croix's heritage was brought to national audiences in the CHRS video, *Community Reflections*, released in 2000, and in a half-hour episode on the Discovery Channel series *Great Canadian Rivers*, filmed in 2000 for airing in 2001.

The St. Croix's declining Atlantic salmon run received a boost from the release of 750 captive-reared adults into the river to spawn naturally. Future studies will track the success of the young fish produced through this experiment. On the headwater lakes, students and volunteers collaborated to restore spawning habitat for native landlocked salmon and smelt. Cooperation remained elusive for another St. Croix fish, the gaspereau, as interests argued without resolution over whether these sea-run fish should be allowed past barriers erected by Maine to prevent their spawning.

The results of a recreational user survey released in 2000 showed that canoeists, boaters and others have high regard for their St. Croix experience and feel that its quality and character should be maintained. To support this goal, the NB Department of Natural Resources & Energy continued its active role in St. Croix recreational management. At year's end, the department was seeking qualified operators for the St. Croix's two provincial parks in light of the province's shift toward a privatized park system.

Many of the St. Croix's programs are international and long term and often draw upon the St. Croix International Waterway Commission as a catalyst or facilitator.

St. Marys River

Ontario (2000)

"At the Crossroads of the Continent"

Since the October 24, 2000 plaque unveiling ceremony, those who have been involved in working towards the designation of the St. Marys River as a Canadian Heritage River have turned their attention to implementing the 13 objectives and 77 action items that were identified in the river's Heritage Strategy document. This group recognized that one of the most critical objectives was the development of an empowered broadly based community group whose mandate would be to pursue implementation of the Heritage Strategy, to establish short, medium, and long-term goals, to monitor the progress of implementation, and to promote the St. Marys River as a pre-eminent river in the CHRS. On June 6, the membership of The Friends of the St. Marys River Board of Directors was formally ratified. At this same meeting, the Board of Directors adopted Terms of Reference that set out the Mission, Goals and Objectives, Membership, Committees and Financial Direction. As well, the Board passed its first by-law that sets out specific duties and direction including the provision of two new Sub-committees i.e. the Protection & Remediation and Promotion & Development Committees. Since the Friends of the St. Marys River is a legal charitable not-for-profit corporation, it can formally enter into legal agreements that contribute to its goals and objectives. This opportunity provides a broader scope for the Friends to form strategic alliances with municipalities, First Nations, government departments and lending institutions for mutual advantage. There are two program initiatives that the Friends will support – the

Great Lakes Heritage Coast and the Remedial Action Plan for the St. Marys River. The Friends of the St. Marys River will also continue to assist their counterparts in Michigan who have submitted an application for the American portion of the St. Marys River to be nominated as an American Heritage River.

"We let a river shower
its banks with a spirit that
invades the people living
there, and we protect that
river, knowing that without
its blessings the people
have no source of soul."

From *The Re-Enchantment
of Everyday Life*

Thomas Moore

Thames River

Ontario (2000)

“Canada’s Deep South”

The proclamation of the Thames as a Canadian Heritage River was made in a public ceremony on September 29th, 2000 in Gibbons Park, London. Blue skies, colourful costumes, supportive speeches by committee members and local and provincial dignitaries and First Nations, and the soft sound of the Thames flowing in the background made for a wonderful celebration. Many local newspapers and radio stations covered the event, spreading the word throughout the area. The following day, at the City of Chatham’s *Heritage Days* festivities, an engraved stone monument was unveiled commemorating the designation of the river and its role in the area’s history, especially in the War of 1812.

The *Thames Canadian Heritage River Committee* was formed in the fall of 2000 to build on the designation through the implementation of the *Thames Strategy*. One of the first tasks of the committee was to host a one day *Thames River Symposium* held on Saturday April 7th at Kings College, London. About 60 people attended from throughout the watershed to hear about ongoing work in the watershed and share their visions for the river. Participants were very supportive of the event and encouraged by the range of community projects designed to protect the values of the Thames.

The *Thames River Watershed Background Study* has been put onto CD-ROM and, through funding from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, copies were mailed to every school and public library in the watershed (about 400 copies in total). Teachers have already expressed an interest in incorporating information about the Thames River into their geography and history classes.

Committee member, Dr. Michael Troughton, has initiated a heritage building inventory of the Thames watershed and surrounding counties. He is documenting both what has existed (pre-1914 rural heritage

buildings), and what currently remains and their current condition. This will provide us with a greater knowledge of the history of the region and, in turn, may support greater awareness of and attachment to a richer past. Dr. Troughton says “The remaining heritage features represent what could still be conserved, as part of any heritage planning within the rural landscape.”

A great many other activities have been initiated by other clubs and groups in the watershed that will be documented in an annual newsletter, due this winter. The committee’s next project is the production and installation of Thames River signs for bridges throughout the watershed. The signs will name the watercourse and feature the CHRS logo.

Thelon River

Nunavut (1990)

“Where Time and Light Stand Still”

The Thelon River flows from the Mackenzie District of the Northwest Territories northeast of Great Slave Lake, through the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary, into Beverly, Aberdeen and Schultz Lakes and finally into Baker Lake – the geographic centre of Canada. The river lies in the heart of the mainland portion of the Nunavut Territory and is noteworthy for its pristine, undisturbed character. The corridor straddles the new boundary between the NWT and Nunavut Territories and traverses the transition zone between the boreal forest of black spruce and tamarack and the treeless tundra adding significantly to the diversity of the biological character of the river corridor. The Thelon River has been very important in the life and traditions of the Inuit and Dene people. From the earliest inhabitants of the region, the corridor has been an important homeland and has provided a wealth of resources to sustain the people hunting and fishing along its banks – which are still depended on, and continue to be important for social and cultural reasons as well.

It was only at the turn of the 20th century, with the travels of David Hanbury in 1899 and followed by other pioneers such as John Hornby that the Thelon River became the focus of considerable interest as an area of tremendous natural history value and a focus for northern conservation efforts – reflected today in the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary – a wildlife and bird oasis on the otherwise barren tundra. Established in 1927, the 52,000 sq. km. sanctuary is one of the largest protected areas in Canada – and among the most remote, which has significantly contributed to the pristine character of the area and the wealth of natural resource values associated with the river corridor. The Sanctuary and the river valley, are home to the second largest caribou herd in the world, the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou herd over 500,000 strong – as well as barrens grizzly, moose, and muskoxen – which is expanding its range to the southeast, outside the Sanctuary. As well, the Thelon River and Sanctuary boasts an incredible diversity of bird life – from peregrine and gyrfalcon, to bald and golden eagles, and a number of other raptors.

In 2000-2001, the communities of Baker Lake (Nunavut) and Lutsel K'e (Northwest Territories) met to review the Management Plan for the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary. Because the Sanctuary straddles the Nunavut/NWT border, both Territories, their communities, and management agencies must approve the plan. In keeping with the obligations under the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement, the plan recommends among other things, the establishment of a co-management Advisory Committee made up of government and community representatives who would consider such things as Special Management Areas outside the Sanctuary, use and access, and other management and planning recommendations. It is anticipated that final approvals from all parties, and implementation of the plan will begin in 2001.

Also in 2000-2001, the Government of Nunavut began implementing the recommendations from the Ten-Year Monitoring Report and Management Plan review of the Thelon Heritage River. The Department of Sustainable Development will be working with Baker Lake to undertake additional inventories, oral histories, and place name mapping geared towards better understanding, planning and management of the river and its uses.

Upper Restigouche River

New Brunswick (1998)

“River of Enchantment”

The implementation and co-ordination of the management plan for the Upper Restigouche River, which was formally declared a Canadian Heritage River in 1998, continued under the direction of the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy in co-operation with a variety of stakeholders.

Progress was made on public information and education goals including wise use ethics and promotion of the “Carry In – Carry Out” program, development and maintenance of campsites and access sites, voluntary registration of recreational canoeists and the removal of litter to approved landfills.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police co-ordinated their enforcement initiative which emphasizes safe and responsible boating and the phased introduction of new boating regulations of the Canadian Coast Guard.

A report on the analysis of four years of baseline water sampling data collected by the Departments of Environment and Local Government and Natural Resources and Energy was completed by the Canadian Rivers Institute which is associated with the University of New Brunswick. The purpose of the report is to provide water quality information that can be used by all stakeholder groups to conserve, protect, and manage the outstanding attributes of the Restigouche River System. The report concludes that the water quality of the Restigouche River remains generally pristine.

Research into the architectural history of the fishing camps on the Restigouche River resulted in the preparation of a paper by Gary Hughes of the New Brunswick Museum, “*Beaux-Arts In The Forest: Stanford White and Two New Brunswick Fishing Camps on the Restigouche*” The paper deals with the contribution of noted architect and ardent salmon angler Stanford White to the design of two fishing camps associated with the Restigouche River; Camp Harmony and Kedgwick Lodge.

“I chatter, chatter as
I flow to join the brimming
river, for men may come
and men may go, but
I go on forever.”

From The Brook, 1887

Lord Tennyson



Parks Canada

This was done through an analysis of previous projects by Stanford White in the northeastern United States in an attempt to demonstrate the similarities between his urban and forest architectural designs.

The New Brunswick Chapter of the International Appalachian Trail continued the development and maintenance of the trail which offers outstanding views of the Restigouche River in several locations. The trail is a co-operative project of volunteers from Quebec, New Brunswick and Maine. The 1,000 km trail provides a link to the Appalachian Trail in the USA.

The natural and cultural heritage values and recreation values for which the Upper Restigouche River was designated a Canadian Heritage River have been maintained through the implementation of the management plan under direction and co-ordination of the Department of Natural Resources and Energy.

Yukon River

The Thirty-Mile Section, Yukon (1991)

"River of Gold"

The conditions on the Thirty-Mile remain relatively unchanged. The Ta'an Kwach'an First Nation continued to monitor river use, interacting with visitors and maintaining campsites.

The holding-tank toilet system was fully implemented with wastes being removed up river to the Whitehorse sewage disposal site. The program appears to have been a success with only one complaint being received following the increased facility use associated with the Whitehorse to Dawson City boat race.

Some historic site deterioration has occurred with the collapse of the 17-Mile Wood Camp Cabin. Excessive rainfall in 1999 resulted in the erosion of the Hoo Doos to a point of not being visible. However, with continued natural erosion it is anticipated that the features will reappear with time. 🍁



Plans, Studies and Research

As the lead federal agency in the CHRS, one of the roles of Parks Canada is to provide technical and financial assistance to participating jurisdictions for studies and plans that lead to including rivers in the System. This assistance is directed to specific projects on the advice of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. Parks Canada staff co-operate in the preparation of system studies, background studies, nomination documents, managements plans, and monitoring reports. In addition, Parks Canada undertakes research studies of national scope on river heritage topics, such as economic benefits, natural and cultural themes, and various policy issues.



System Studies

System studies are comparative analyses of rivers within a province or territory and are undertaken to identify potential Canadian Heritage Rivers. They address, in a general fashion, the heritage and recreational values of a broad cross-section of a province's or territory's rivers and determine which ones appear to meet the CHRS selection guidelines and which can feasibly be managed as Canadian Heritage Rivers. Most jurisdictions have carried out system studies. These are available by contacting the appropriate Board member.

While no system studies were undertaken in 2000-2001, the system study of Manitoba's rivers completed the year before continues to serve as an excellent reference for future studies of this type. The Manitoba study was the first to make use of the new national frameworks for natural and human heritage, and included an initial attempt to design a recreational framework that might, in the future, be used system-wide. The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board has approved the preparation of a System Study of rivers in Labrador. The timing of this study is to be determined by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.



Background Studies

To provide more detailed information on the suitability of rivers, or sections of rivers, for inclusion in the CHRS, governments may undertake background research studies. These studies attempt to collect all available information, from secondary sources and through field verification, on a river's human and natural heritage, its recreational opportunities and on issues surrounding its possible management as a Canadian Heritage River. CHRS selection and integrity guidelines are used to assess the study river's heritage and recreational values in detail.

In 2000-2001, a background study was completed for the Montague-Three Rivers (Cardigan, Brudenell and Montague/Valleyfield Rivers) in Prince Edward Island. Work also commenced on the preparation of a background study of the Coppermine River in Nunavut.



Nomination Documents

For the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board to consider recommending a river for inclusion in the CHRS, nominating governments must complete a nomination document and submit it for formal review by the Board. In 2000-2001, a nomination document was completed for the Montague-Three Rivers System in Prince Edward Island. Some further work was also done towards the completion of a nomination document for sections of the Athabasca River in Alberta (outside the boundaries of Jasper National Park).

Management Plans

Before recommending a river for formal designation, the Board must be assured that the appropriate jurisdictions have committed to manage the candidate river as a Canadian Heritage River. The vehicle for this is a management plan which not only includes evidence of commitment, in the form of appropriate signatures, but also describes a management area around the nominated river or river section and the policies and practices that will be put in place to fulfil CHRS objectives. The Board reviews documents submitted by member jurisdictions to ensure that they contain these basic components.

In 2000-2001, management plans were approved for the Detroit River, and the La Vase Portages Extensions to the Mattawa River in Ontario, and the Main River in Newfoundland.

Work continued on the preparation of management plans for the Tatshenshini River (Yukon) and the Clearwater River (Alberta).

Monitoring Reports

In order to ensure that all Canadian Heritage Rivers continue to possess the outstanding heritage values for which they were originally nominated and thus continue to merit their designation, the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board periodically reviews the status of rivers within the System. At least every ten years, the Board requires that managing jurisdictions conduct a detailed assessment of the condition of their designated rivers.

In 2000-2001, Ten Year Monitoring Reports were prepared for the Bloodvein River (Manitoba), the St. Croix River (New Brunswick) and the Kazan and Thelon rivers (Nunavut). These are available by contacting the appropriate Board member. In addition to the four reports produced this year, Ten Year Reports are now available for the following rivers: French, Mattawa, Athabasca, South Nahanni, Kicking Horse, North Saskatchewan, and Alsek.

Research

National Frameworks

As the Canadian Heritage Rivers System continues to expand, assessment methods grow with it. Frameworks for the natural and cultural values of Canadian Heritage Rivers are being applied as the basis for a systematic approach to the inclusion and assessment of natural and cultural values in the CHRS. Application of the Cultural Framework showed that it required certain revisions, which were made in 2000-2001. The nomination document for the Hayes River (Manitoba) was used as a model for integrating the cultural framework into CHRS nomination documents. Similarly, updates were completed to the Natural Framework in 2000-2001 which will be used as an important reference for future plans, studies and research. 🍁



Public Promotion and Marketing

This past year was a productive one for CHRS communications. The CHRS brochure featuring all rivers in the system was redesigned, updated and printed. It has proven to be a very useful and popular information piece. Our website, launched in September, 1999, has also been very successful. Last year's Annual Report, which featured a painting by the late Bill Mason on the cover, was a very popular item at museums, trade shows, river and canoeing events. Our efforts to spread the word about the CHRS and the philosophy of honouring our rivers appear to have rippled throughout much of Canada.



www.chrs.ca

The CHRS web site (www.chrs.ca) was launched in September, 1999. The site has been a tremendous success and has become an important component of the overall Communications and Marketing program of the CHRS.

The site presents information on all CHRS rivers, provides direct access to CHRS staff, board members and publications. In addition, the latest CHRS news, a photo gallery, river stories, and links to other river-related web sites are provided.

A clear testimony to the success and acceptance of the new site lies in the phenomenal increase in the number of visits since its launch in September, 1999. Prior to 1999, the old CHRS site received a mere 2-3,000 visits per month. That number jumped to over 30,000 per month upon the new site's release. By March 2000, the number of visits had increased to over 60,000 per month, and by March 2001, the number of visits per month had more than doubled to over 150,000!



Print Media

The popular "*Discover Adventure...*" brochure was updated, re-designed and reprinted. This brochure features all the rivers in the program up to March 2001.

In addition, fact sheets were printed for the Rideau, Humber and St. Marys rivers. The Board once again renewed its agreement with the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association (CRCA) to produce the 2001 Canadian Heritage Rivers Calendar. The 2001 edition is a compilation of the best images from all previous calendars. Sales were very strong with over \$25,000 in gross revenues. Proceeds are used to support national river conservation projects sponsored by the CRCA, such as river clean-ups and environmentally sound camping practices. The 2002 calendar is now in the planning phases and will be available for \$14.95 from the CRCA. To order your calendar, contact the CRCA (orders@crca.ca) or phone (613) 269-2910.

Video

Good Earth Productions, the company responsible for the highly successful *Great Canadian Parks* series, aired a series entitled *Great Canadian Rivers*, profiling 14 rivers in Canada, including ten Heritage Rivers – the Grand, Churchill, Yukon, Hayes, Kazan, French, Athabasca, St. Croix, Fraser and Margaree. The series was broadcast on the Discovery Channel starting in January, 2001. A second season is planned, featuring more Canadian Heritage Rivers. The CHRS Board did not provide financial assistance for this project, but did provide in-kind services and support to Good Earth Productions.

Conferences and Exhibits

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System was represented at a variety of events, some national in scope, such as the Parks Canada Round Table in Hamilton, a high-profile event with delegates from across Canada, others local, such as Thames River Day in London and the Heritage Canoe Festival in Peterborough. Plans were also put in place to have the CHRS exhibit displayed in New Brunswick's Government House during the Third Canadian River Heritage Conference.

Co-operative Activities

Rivers of Dreams

The "*Rivers of Dreams*" project, although envisioned as national in scope, has the potential to grow to continental or even global proportions. The Rivers of Dreams project was initiated by Ted Hains Marketing of Toronto. Mr. Hains has done extensive work marketing parks and other protected areas across Canada. The *Rivers of Dreams* project uses the Internet as a means of raising awareness across Canada of river and watershed conservation.

The idea is to take certain elements of the classic Holling.C. Holling children's story "*Paddle to the Sea*" (later the subject of a renowned Bill Mason National Film Board Production), which tells of the journey of a tiny wooden canoe, launched into Lake Superior by a young boy. Mr. Hains proposes to develop "canoe kits" which families, schools, or individuals could purchase. The kits will include a copy of the book "*Paddle To the Sea*" and the NFB video, along with a model wooden canoe with a unique identification number.

Purchasers of the model canoes will register on the web site when and where they launched their canoe, and their personal dream for the river. Anyone who finds a canoe can go onto the web site and find out where and when it was launched.

The long-term goal of this project is to establish a legacy fund to support river conservation.

A successful pilot launch was carried out on BC Rivers Day in September, 2000. A second pilot launch is planned for the Third Canadian River Heritage Conference in Fredericton, June 3-6. Visit the website (www.riversofdreams.org) for more information.

National Rivers Day

Since February 1996, the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board has discussed various options for the possible implementation of a National Rivers Day in Canada. The Board first endorsed the concept of a National Rivers Day in the CHRS Strategic Plan. In 2001, a CHRS task force re-examined this concept, and the Board reaffirmed their support for the establishment of a National Rivers Day if it is linked to sufficient funds and resources from other sources.

On a parallel track, Rivers Canada has been working over the past year with a group of private citizens and ENGO's who are supporting the establishment of a National Rivers Day. Rivers Canada is a not for profit, non-governmental organization whose mandate is to promote river and lake conservation in Canada. Dr. David Goranson, the Founder of Rivers Canada, reports that there is very strong public support for the idea of a National Rivers Day to celebrate, commemorate and clean-up our waterways. Rivers Canada will be making a presentation at the Third Canadian River Heritage Conference where this organization will be seeking further support amongst river advocates and the public to establish a National Rivers Day on the Sunday following Environment Week, commencing in 2003.

The Department of Canadian Heritage has provided Rivers Canada with funding for the preparation of a business plan to create events that will celebrate rivers across the nation. There is now a volunteer committee in place to help move this initiative forward.

For more information on the National Rivers Day proposal, and Rivers Canada, contact:

Mr. Elmer Savoie
Executive Director
Rivers Canada
P.O. Box 724
Miramichi City, New Brunswick
E1V 3V4

Phone: (506) 394-8935
Fax: (506) 776-8905

Commemorative Program

Two plaque unveiling ceremonies were held during the summer/fall of 2000. These events raise public awareness of the CHRS and act as a focus for special events planned by the local communities.

The Thames River was officially welcomed into the CHRS with a plaque unveiling ceremony on September 29th, 2000, in London. The plaque was unveiled by Sue Barnes, MP for London West, Ted Chudleigh, MPP and Parliamentary Assistant to John Snobelen, Joe Fontana, MP for London North Centre, and Dianne Haskett, the Mayor of the City of London. Town criers from communities throughout the watershed announced the ceremony and took back with them the plaque wording to read out in their own communities. A second designation ceremony in Chatham occurred the following day at the Thamesgrove Conservation Area.

A second CHRS plaque unveiling ceremony took place on October 20, 2000, for the St. Mary's River. Sault Ste. Marie MP Carmen Provenzano and Ted Chudleigh, Parliamentary Assistant to the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources unveiled the plaque at Roberta Bondar Pavilion on the banks of the St. Marys River in downtown Sault Ste. Marie.

The Third Canadian River Heritage Conference:

"Caring for the Waters that Connect Us"



THE 3RD
CANADIAN RIVER HERITAGE
CONFERENCE

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, JUNE 3-6, 2001

Plans for the third Canadian River Heritage Conference have progressed very well. The conference is being organized by the St. John River Society. Submissions for papers have been received from all over North America. Ms. Iona Campagnolo, Chair of the Fraser Basin Council, agreed to deliver the opening address, while Tim Palmer, a noted American author who writes and speaks extensively about rivers,

accepted the invitation to deliver the closing address in tandem with Barbara Veale of the Grand River Conservation Authority. The speakers list is impressive, including some of the most renowned river activists and advocates in North America. The conference organizer, the St. John River Society, is to be commended for their superlative work in setting the stage for a memorable conference in Fredericton, June 3-6. 🍁

For More Information:

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