




The
Canadian
 Heritage Rivers
SYSTEM



ANNUAL REPORT
 1999-2000



April 2000

*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 sixteenth
Annual Report on the Canadian Heritage Rivers
System (CHRS) for the fiscal year 1999/2000.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Angelo

Mark Angelo
Chairperson
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board,
1999/2000

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Cover Painting: Campfire, Pukaskwa River

Bill Mason (1929-1988)

Bill Mason was born in Winnipeg, but lived much of his life in Gatineau Park on the shore of Meech Lake. Though he was a painter, designer, writer and illustrator, he is best known as a filmmaker and environmentalist. His films, many of which have received national and international awards, were often filmed in Gatineau Park.

One of these, which chronicles his family's experiences with a captive wolf pack, is *The Cry of The Wild*.

After his final film, *Waterwalker* in 1984, he returned to painting and writing until his death on October 29, 1988.

The Bill Mason Award is presented every three years at the Canada's River Heritage Conference (sponsored by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board) to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to canoeing heritage in Canada. Previous recipients of the award are Kirk Wipper, past president of the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association and Bill Reid, renowned Haida sculptor and artist.

The next Bill Mason Award will be presented at the third Canada's River Heritage Conference in June, 2001, in Fredericton, New Brunswick.



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Chairperson's Report

"A river is water in its loveliest form."

Roderick Haig-Brown

I have been fortunate to have travelled on many of the world's great rivers, including a number that are part of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. Rivers are meeting places and carriers of life and energy, where forces of nature in a myriad of forms come together to sustain all of us with their beauty, peace, and vitality. Rivers are home to a great diversity of life, and travel through the most beautiful of landscapes. This is especially apparent to those who have travelled along a heritage river.

As we enter the new millennium, I feel we are beginning a new phase in our relationship with our country's waterways. There is a growing stream of consciousness, stewardship, and responsibility for our rivers, increasing at every level in our society, from local communities to key decision makers in government. It heartens me to see this happening.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System serves as a focal point for communities to take action to protect their river, to enhance their quality of life, and to ensure that the natural and cultural values associated with these waterways are sustained.

Three new rivers were nominated to the CHRS over the past year; the Cowichan in British Columbia, the Hayes in Manitoba, and the Detroit in Ontario. Three rivers were also formally designated to the System – the Rideau, Thames, and St. Marys in Ontario.

In total, thirty seven rivers are currently in the system with a total length of over 9000 kilometres.

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. A partnership agreement was signed formally twinning the Fraser River in British Columbia with the Grand River in Ontario. This initiative will foster communications and cross country linkages between communities and people living within these two watersheds and

show that, though they are separated by thousands of kilometres, they share much in common. The CHRS was also profiled as part of a major Parks Canada exhibit at the 1999 Pan Am Games held in Winnipeg. This display drew over 50,000 people over a three week period.

I am optimistic about the future of our rivers in Canada but this is dependent on the continued strong commitment and good will of local people working together for the common good. As Canada's national river conservation program, the Canadian Heritage Rivers System will play a vital role in the future of our country's waterways. A major national conference is being planned for June, 2001 in Fredericton, New Brunswick, to examine the state of our rivers and their future. I would encourage people across the country who care about rivers and streams to attend this important event and chart a future for the rivers in their own communities. Information on the conference is included in this annual report.

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

Mark Angelo

Chairperson
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board
1999/2000

Status of the CHRS



Thirty-seven rivers have been nominated to the CHRS, totaling 9281 kms. Twenty-eight of these have been formally designated, meaning that 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	Ontario (Mattawa PP and Samuel de Champlain PP)	January 1988	33
Athabasca	Alberta (Jasper NP)	January 1989	168
North Saskatchewan	Alberta (Banff NP)	January 1989	49
Kicking Horse	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	Yukon	January 1992	48
Seal	Manitoba	June 1992	260
Soper ⁴	Nunavut (Katannilik Territorial Park Reserve)	June 1992	248
Arctic Red	Northwest Territories	September 1993	450
Grand ⁴	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	Yukon	February 1998	350
Upper Restigouche	New Brunswick	February 1998	55
Bloodvein ³	Manitoba (Atikaki PP), Ontario (Woodland Caribou PP)	June 1998	306
Margaree ⁴	Nova Scotia	June 1998	120
Fraser ⁴	British Columbia	June 1998	1375
Humber	Ontario	February 1999	100
Rideau	Ontario (Rideau Waterway – Parks Canada)	February 2000	202
Thames	Ontario	February 2000	273
St. Marys	Ontario	February 2000	125

TOTAL

7236

Nominated Rivers

River	Location Province/Territory (Park)	Anticipated Designation Date	Length (in km)
Main	Newfoundland	February 2001	57
Bay du Nord	Newfoundland (Bay du Nord Wilderness Park Reserve)	February 2001	75
Jacques-Cartier	Quebec (Jacques-Cartier PP)	February 2001	128
Missinaibi	Ontario (Missinaibi PP)	February 2001	426
Clearwater ²	Alberta	February 2001	139
Churchill	Saskatchewan	to be determined	487
Detroit	Ontario	February 2001	51
Tatshenshini	Yukon	February 2002	45
Cowichan	British Columbia	June 2002	47
Hayes	Manitoba	January 2003	590

TOTAL

2045

Total km of nominated & designated rivers

9281

- 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 Bloodvein River (Manitoba section) was designated in 1987.
- 4 Includes mainstream and major tributaries.

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. 1999/2000 is the fourth year of the plan. 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 1999/2000 towards these four initiatives include the following:

Actively Managing and Completing the System

- Completion of Ten-Year Monitoring Reports for the Kicking Horse, North Saskatchewan, Athabasca, French and Mattawa rivers.
- Nomination of several new rivers to the CHRS.
- Management plans prepared for the Thames, St. Marys, and Rideau rivers.

Policies Consolidation

Two documents will replace the "old" CHRS Guidelines, and the "Objectives, Principles and Procedures" booklet. The first, a comprehensive statement of the Principles, Procedures and Guidelines under which the Canadian Heritage Rivers System operates, was tabled with the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. Representing a consolidation of previous CHRS policies and guidelines, the document contains the CHRS Charter which defines the mandate and general policies of the program, a Procedures section which describes the current requirements of the program as set out by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board,

and a section on Operational Guidelines which specifies the guidelines to be followed in the implementation of the System. The document is essentially the constitution of the CHRS and supercedes all previous documents containing program policies and guidelines.

The second document concerns guidelines for integrity of Canadian Heritage Rivers.

Maintaining the integrity of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System is vital to its credibility. A discussion paper was prepared for presentation to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board dealing with the interpretation and application of CHRS integrity guidelines to nominated rivers. Existing integrity requirements and guidelines were analysed in terms of their influence on river nominations and their effectiveness in dealing with threats to the integrity of rivers already in the System.



Communications

- Twinning of the Fraser and Grand rivers.
- Planning and organizing the third Canada's River Heritage Conference in Fredericton, New Brunswick, for June, 2001.
- Completion of a new CHRS video emphasizing the positive benefits of CHRS designation.
- CHRS displays, literature and presentations at major national and international events, including the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg, the River Management Society Biannual Meeting, watersport and outdoor adventure shows, including the Peterborough Heritage Canoe Festival.
- CHRS is featured on the cover of federal government telephone directories across Canada.
- Launch of new CHRS website (www.chrs.ca) in September, 1999, and linking of all member jurisdiction's websites to the CHRS site.
- Establishment of a task force for examining the feasibility of a National Rivers Day. The task force report is due at the CHRS Board meeting, February 2001.
- Good Earth Productions series on Canadian rivers, including 10 rivers in the CHRS.
- Production of the 2000 Heritage Rivers Calendar.

Leadership

- Federal, provincial and territorial Ministers continue to affirm their governments' commitment to the Heritage Rivers Program through the CHRS Charter.
- Conduct third annual review and update of the strategic plan, including the review of current 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.
- A Technical Planning Committee was created from among staff members of participating jurisdictions to perform tasks defined by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, including the review of nomination documents, management plans and Ten-Year Monitoring Reports.



Cliff Spears

Resourcing

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

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. 🍁

"To trace the history
of a river...is to trace
the history of the soul,
the history of the
mind ascending and
arising in the body"

Gretel Erlich



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 (1999/2000)

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 Charles Furey
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Honourable Kevin MacAdam
Minister of Fisheries and Tourism
Government of Prince Edward Island

The Honourable Michael Baker
Minister of Environment
Government of Nova Scotia

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

L'honorable Guy Chevrette
Ministre de la Faune et des Parcs
Gouvernement du Québec

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 Gary G. Mar, Q.C.
Minister of Environment
Government of Alberta

The Honourable Joan Sawicki
Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks
Government of British Columbia

The Honourable Eric Fairclough
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 Peter Kilabuk
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 2000/2001 Chairperson will be Don MacAulay, Director, Parks and Special Places Branch, Saskatchewan Department of Environment and Resource Management. ❁

1999/2000 Board Members

Mark Angelo, 1999/2000 Chairperson
(British Columbia)
Juanita Keel-Ryan (Newfoundland and Labrador)
Doug Murray (Prince Edward Island)
Dale Smith (Nova Scotia)
Harry Collins (New Brunswick)
Michel Damphousse (Quebec)
Adair Ireland-Smith (Ontario)
Gordon Prouse (Manitoba)
Don MacAulay (Saskatchewan)
Fred Moffatt (Alberta)
Jim McIntyre (Yukon)
Robin Reilly (Northwest Territories)
David Monteith (Nunavut)
Bruce Amos (Parks Canada)
Julie Chouinard (Indian Affairs and
Northern Development)

CHRS Staff

Don Gibson, National Manager
Max Finkelstein, Marketing and Publicity
Brian Grimsey, Senior Planner
Wayne Roach, Technical Support



River Nomination Process

Becoming a Canadian Heritage River is a two-step process – nomination and designation. Public involvement and local community support 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) decides 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(s) representing the nominating government(s) 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 agency(ies) 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.



Ken Hookey

River Designations and Nominations in 1999/2000

This past year was another one of fast growth for the CHRS with three new designations and three new nominations. The newly designated rivers are the Rideau Waterway, Thames and St. Marys in Ontario. The new nominations are the Detroit River in Ontario, the Cowichan River in British Columbia, and the Hayes River in Manitoba.

Designations

Rideau Waterway: Paddle Back in Time

The Rideau Waterway stretches 202 kilometres through a chain of lakes, rivers and canals, linking Canada's capital, Ottawa, to the historic city of Kingston on Lake Ontario. To follow the Rideau Waterway is not only a trip through some of the most picturesque countryside in eastern Ontario, but also a voyage through history.

The Rideau Canal National Historic Site, the core of the Rideau Waterway, was built between 1826 and 1832. It is the oldest continuously operating canal in North America. Originally conceived as a key part of a military defence system for Upper Canada (now Ontario), it soon became a route for local trade and luxury steamers. Considered one of the greatest engineering feats of the 19th century, 19 kilometres of canals and 45 locks raise vessels 83 metres from the Ottawa River to the height of land at Newboro, and lower them to Lake Ontario. Today, the log rafts and steamers of the 19th century have given way to pleasure craft, but the tradition of hand-operating the locks and swing bridges continues. Along the Rideau, one finds a unique blend of wildlife, city life and country life, of past and present, nature and culture. Designation of the Rideau Waterway as a Canadian Heritage River not only is testimony to its significance as a national treasure, but will also ensure stewardship and wise management of the waterway, and will safeguard the integrity of its unique resources for all time.

Plaque unveiling ceremonies are planned for the summer, 2001.

Thames River: Canada's Deep South

The Thames River in southern Ontario begins near Tavistock and Mitchell and flows 273 kilometres southwest to Lake St. Clair. Winding through lush Carolinian forest, fertile farmlands and a mix of rural and urban communities, the Thames and its valley provide a rich habitat for a diverse range of wildlife and fish species. The Thames was the first waterway to form in Ontario after glaciation and, for over 11,000 years, has been home to Aboriginal peoples who called it "Askunesippi" or "Antler River". It was later called "La Tranche" (the Trench) by early French explorers and was given its present-day name in 1792 by Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe. The Thames River watershed provided transportation, power, water and food for 19th century European settlers who were drawn to this productive land. The river continues to be a source of recreation and spiritual attachment for local people. The designation of the Thames as a Canadian Heritage River reflects a tradition of cooperative watershed management to protect its natural beauty, cultural diversity and recreational opportunities.

A plaque unveiling ceremony is planned for September, 2000.



Thames River

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

St. Marys River: At the Crossroads of the Continent

Connecting three of North America's Great Lakes – Superior, Huron and Michigan – the St. Marys River is the key hydrological, ecological and transportation link in the Great Lakes system. Since its birth less than 10,000 years ago at the end of the most recent Ice Age, this historic river, although only 125 km long, has been a vital artery leading to the heart of the continent and beyond.

The St. Marys River valley is the cultural heartland of the Ojibwe, and for almost 5,000 years Aboriginal peoples have gathered here to fish and trade. For explorers, missionaries and fur traders, the St. Marys was the gateway to the west. In the late 18th century, the British military recognized the value of the river's strategic location for the defence of Canada, and built Fort St. Joseph. In the 19th century, locks circumventing the rapids connected the commerce and industry of eastern North America to the untapped natural resources to the west. Although still a significant route of commerce, the St. Marys River is now an important playground for sport fishers and boaters.

The designation of the St. Marys River as a Canadian Heritage River is a testament to the commitment of local residents who share a vision for the recognition and preservation of this river's outstanding natural, cultural and recreational values.

A plaque unveiling ceremony is planned for October, 2000.



Nominations

Detroit River: A Unique International Heritage



Essex Region Conservation Authority

The Detroit River is a waterway between two countries with its shores embracing the largest metropolitan area on any international border. But rather than separating communities along its banks, the river connects them culturally and economically. Every year, more than 14,000,000 vehicles cross the Detroit River and 8,000 commercial ships ply its waters, making it the busiest international border crossing point in North America and a key transportation route in the Great Lakes system linking Lake St. Clair with Lake Erie.

The Windsor-Detroit area has a fascinating history of settlement, trade, culture and industrialization centred around the Detroit River. Archaeological finds date North Americans at river front sites as early as 400 A.D. Europeans reached the area around 1650 and reaped the benefits of the river's rich natural resources. The river has a fascinating 300-year history as a strategic location for defence and was an integral part of the "Underground Railway", the route taken by Afro-Americans

"To stick your hands
into the river is to feel
the chords that
bind the earth together
in one piece"

Barry Lopez

to escape slavery in the 19th century. Numerous pleasure craft, tug boats, lake freighters and ocean vessels now navigate its waters past parks, farms, historic sites and the urban centres of Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan.

The Detroit River received American Heritage River designation in 1998. With designation to the CHRS expected in the near future, it will become the first river with dual designations.

Hayes River: The Road to the Interior

The Hayes River has played a profound role in the development of Canada as a nation, surpassed only by the Ottawa River and the St. Lawrence River. Since the founding of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1670, the Hayes was the route from York Factory on Hudson Bay to the interior of western Canada. Aboriginal peoples, fur traders, explorers, and settlers all followed the Hayes. York Factory closed its doors in 1956, but the Hayes remains much the same as when the fur traders travelled it, unaltered by dams and development. It is the only major river in mid-continental North America that remains in a natural state. An integral part of the route to the interior is the 67 km Echimamish River, remarkable for its two-way flow system which was the key to the Hayes as a transportation route. The Echimamish links the Hayes to the Nelson River, which can be followed upstream to Lake Winnipeg at Norway House.

Today, the Hayes River is an important wilderness recreational canoe route. Communities along the route, and remains of early fur trade posts, provide a link to its fur trading legacy. Many archaeological sites and pictographs testify to its importance as a route for Manitoba's first people. The Painted Stone Portage connecting the Hayes River with the Echimamish, probably the most heavily used portage in western Canada, is a sacred place of worship known to exist long before the arrival of Europeans.

The entire 590 km Hayes River route from York Factory on Hudson Bay to Norway House on Lake Winnipeg, including the Echimamish River and a 43 km section of the Nelson River, is nominated to the CHRS.

Cowichan River: From the Mountains to the Sea

The Cowichan River on Vancouver Island flows 47 kms from mountain-ringed Cowichan Lake through forests and meadows to a large ocean estuary at Cowichan Bay. Cowichan, derived from the Coast Salish word "Khowutzun" means "land warmed by the sun". Ice on the river is indeed a rare occurrence. The estuary is a wintering area for thousands of waterfowl, and salmon and trout spawn up the river and its tributaries. This provided a rich food source for the Salish Aboriginal people, and the river is central to their history and culture. Today, the river valley is a homeland to the Cowichan First Nation and a recreational treasure at the doorstep of nearby communities. A footpath along its entire length and a park along 20 km of the river allow access to fishing, swimming, tubing and canoeing.



K.C. Gibbert

State of the Rivers: Canadian Heritage Rivers in 1999/2000

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

Alsek River

Kluane National Park, Yukon (1986)

“River of Rock and Ice”

1999 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 1999. Being the first review since the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Final Agreement and the establishment of the Kluane National Park Management Board, this public consultation has placed a special emphasis on the local First Nation community.

Four workshops in early 1999 gave members of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations a chance to talk about their goals for the park. The need to renew cultural ties to the areas within Kluane National Park came out as a high priority. Opportunities to learn and teach about the cultural heritage of Southern Tutchone people associated with the park area and for Champagne and Aishihik First Nations to share responsibility for managing the park were also identified as important. A community-based Recreational Opportunities Working Group was instrumental in bringing to the Planning Team a set of recommendations on future recreational use of the park. The group, consisting of local volunteers with considerable knowledge of Kluane, recommended that the Alsek River continue to be managed as a pristine backcountry experience focussing on river rafting.

Arctic Red River

Northwest Territories (1993)

“River of the Gwichya Gwich'in”



Arctic Red River

R.G. Seale

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 continues to be in good condition despite the increasing pressures and stresses (from within and outside of the park boundaries) that have been put on it over the past years.

Anticipated in the spring of 2001, is the start up of construction on a new sewage treatment plant for the community of Jasper. This project has been on the drawing board for a few years. Specific details on the plant are not finalized but Jasper National Park (JNP) is aiming for stricter effluent targets than have been established in the new Park Management Plan, anticipated for release during the summer of 2000.

The new park management plan will be the guiding document for the management of the Athabasca River within the park boundaries. Patterned after the 1998 Banff management plan, it will give direction for the management of Jasper National Park for the next 15 years.

Public and commercial recreational river use continues to increase on the Athabasca River and its main tributaries. During the summer of 1999, the mid-Maligne River was closed to all forms of boating for the protection of the harlequin duck population. Commercial rafting operators were moved to the Sunwapta River to replace the mid-Maligne. Recreational use on the Athabasca continues to increase in proportion to the growing number of park visitors. New put-ins and take-outs were built on the Sunwapta for rafters and improvements were made to other existing facilities to accommodate the increased use. As part of the environmental assessment for the implementation of the Jasper National Park River Use Guidelines, a river use survey was conducted to determine if crowding is an issue. The results are not in yet and the survey will be conducted again this year.

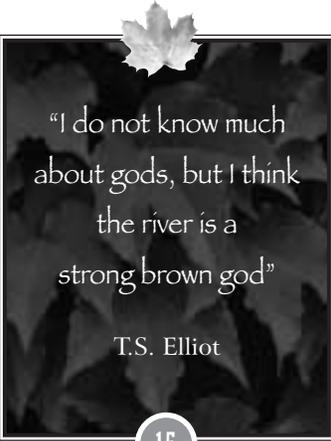
Forty harlequin ducks have been observed on the Athabasca River by JNP aquatics specialists. Fourteen were banded (one was from the Queen Charlottes). Most of the sightings were between the sewage treatment plant and the confluence of the Maligne River (approximately a 1 to 2 km stretch).

In the same vicinity as the sewage plant but on the other side of the river is Jasper Park Lodge (JPL). JPL is a partner in the funding of the new sewage plant and will also be laying a new sewage line to reach the new plant. Their existing sewage line has broken once each of the last two years (the lodges quick response has minimized impact of the spills) and thus they are preparing to replace the existing line. The line will be laid under the Athabasca River, just like the previous lines. An environmental assessment has yet to be filed for this project.

JPL has also been working with Parks Canada biologists in several other areas of cooperation. As part of the negotiations for the building of new staff accommodation at JPL, a wildlife corridor is going to be created through the 18 hole golf course by realignment of the fence that has traditionally surrounded the course. Other improvements to the fence will allow carnivores to move through the fence with little effort yet will keep ungulates out. Recent research shows that the golf course fence juxtaposed with the surrounding topography has been an impediment to wildlife movement in the area known as the 3 Valley Confluence. The realignment of the fence will assist in freer wildlife movement throughout that portion of the Athabasca Valley. In another effort to re-establish native fish populations and return Lac Beauvert to its original level, JNP along with JPL have re-introduced native whitefish captured from Mile 9 Lake (also in the Athabasca Valley) as well as gradually removing a rock weir that essentially isolates the lake from the Athabasca River. Fish historically migrated up the stream from the Athabasca River to Lac Beauvert until a weir was constructed to maintain the level of the lake. Lac Beauvert is the picturesque lake adjacent to the lodge and is the source of potable water for the lodge.

Other initiatives for aquatics management is the identification of Mile 9 Lake as a benchmark lake due to its fine population of native Whitefish and Pike. The pike population throughout the province of Alberta is extremely stressed due to overfishing

and the province has taken steps to ensure the long term viability of this native species. Steps are being taken in JNP to protect pike in Talbot Lake, Mile 9 Lake and the Athabasca River from 12 Mile Bridge to the east park boundary. Public consultation will be conducted in the summer 2000 on this issue and others facing fisheries management within Jasper.



“I do not know much
about gods, but I think
the river is a
strong brown god”

T.S. Elliot

Bloodvein River

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

“Deep in the Heart of the Land”

Manitoba Portion

The Bloodvein River courses through Manitoba’s eastern Precambrian shield wilderness and is the heart of Atikaki Provincial Park. Recreational use continues to grow and is now estimated to be over 2,000 people per year. Despite low water levels in 1999, these river travellers experienced a classic whitewater canoe trip.

Work continued on the management plan for Atikaki Provincial Park, which will replace the 1986 Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River Management Plan and will provide long term direction for the protection and management of the park’s natural and cultural heritage resources. The first round of public consultation was held in March 1999 and was well attended. Participants spoke highly of how they value Atikaki Park and the Bloodvein River. A “Report on Public Comments” was released in the fall. The draft management plan will be reviewed through a second round of public consultations in late 2000.

The preparation of the Ten-Year Monitoring Report for the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River began in 1999/2000. The report will evaluate changes to the nomination values for the river as well as the implementation of the 1986 management plan. This report will be completed in 2000.

A caribou management plan has been initiated for the area that encompasses the Bloodvein River. Radio collaring of animals, habitat assessments, and public education efforts are part of the plan. Woodland caribou are a species of particular interest and importance along the Bloodvein River and this study will help in the management of the area to ensure the survival of the herd.



Max Finkelstein

The designation of both the Manitoba and Ontario sections of the Bloodvein River has enhanced the consultation and cooperation between the two park agencies. Issues of common concern such as access and recreational use of the Bloodvein River are being discussed and joint enforcement patrols are being planned for the summer of 2000.

Ontario Portion

The Bloodvein River experienced no major changes in the past year. Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Management Plan is being considered for funding in 2000 as an Ontario Living Legacy featured site. The Ontario government continues to work co-operatively with the Manitoba government, and is considering an inter-provincial park as one option for the area. The removal of an outpost camp from Murdock Lake is scheduled to take place sometime this year. A new addition to the park will include part of Peisk Lake, the headwater lake of the Bloodvein River.

“Who hears the rippling
of waters cannot utterly
despair of anything”

W.B. Yeats

Bonnet Plume River

Yukon (1998)

“River of Black Sands”

Racing out of the Wernecke Mountains in the central Yukon, the Bonnet Plume cuts through mountain peaks and canyons which were not glaciated during the Pleistocene, exposing veins of silver and zinc. This arctic landscape abounds with woodland caribou and grizzly bear dens, its habitat home to a host of rare plants. The valley of the Bonnet Plume was a traditional hunting and travel area for the Gwich'in people and represents their heritage in its pristine state. The remote, little travelled Bonnet Plume provides one of the best wilderness adventures to be found in Canada.

The Wilderness Tourism Licensing Act, 1998, which requires all Yukon Wilderness Tourism operators to possess a license and report trip data annually, will help preserve the uncrowded and pristine character of the Bonnet Plume. Trip report data will be used in the long term planning and management of the watershed to ensure sustainable use.

In accordance with the CHRS Bonnet Plume River Management Strategy, work on baseline habitat inventories, wildlife population census and classification of vegetation and identification of rare plants is to be carried out in the Bonnet Plume watershed. Over the summer of 1999 inventory work was completed on habitat, vegetation, sheep and fisheries for the middle section of the watershed. Plans were set in place to complete the upper section in 2000 and the lower section in 2001. This work will ensure that data is available to complete the five-year plan review and to effectively manage the Bonnet Plume watershed within the CHRS program.

Boundary Waters/ Voyageur Waterway

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

“The Singing Wilderness”

In its third year as a designated Canadian Heritage River, the Boundary Waters/Voyageur Waterway (BWVW) experienced changes in both recreational and natural heritage values. The river experienced habitat alteration as a result of a severe windstorm that swept through the area on July 4, 1999. The storm impacted thousands of hectares of forest along both the LaVerendrye and the Quetico portions of the BWVW, resulting in large areas of forest blow-down. Since the blowdown was a natural occurrence, the alteration of habitat was not considered to be a negative impact. However recreational values were negatively impacted. Visitor use of the area has been modified due to a restricted fire zone for the 2000 fire season and also to the unavailability of some campsites in La Verendrye Provincial Park. Quetico Provincial Park has initiated a Prescribed Burn Planning Process to improve this situation. The objective of the process is to reduce the hazard in the area of blowdown by burning areas where a forest fire could easily start by a lightning strike or a careless camper.

Construction of the Trans Provincial Snowmobile Trail along 3 km of abandoned railbed has increased recreational opportunities in the La Verendrye portion of the waterway. The trail may be extended through another section of the park. The La Verendrye Provincial Management Plan currently identifies this area as an Access Zone to accommodate the projected visitor use of recreational facilities.



Clearwater River

Clearwater River Provincial Wilderness Park, Saskatchewan (1987)

“Link to the North”

Low water levels and an active fire season in 1999 resulted in lower than normal recreational use of the Clearwater. While smoky, no fires actually entered the magnificent glacial valley which frames the lower section of the river or the surrounding boreal forests from the start of the designated section at the outlet of Lloyd Lake to the highway crossing north of the community of La Loche. However, wildfire was active in the area.

In the case of this heritage river and the wilderness park which protects it, fire has been and will continue to be a major factor in maintaining a mixed aged forest and in pushing back the encroaching aspen from the grasslands of the steep south facing valley slopes. An isolated fire tower located on a kame overlooking the river valley, where a succession of dedicated towermen and their families relocated for the fire season, has been gone for several years now. It has been replaced upstream with a tower on the opposite side (south) and further inland.

A factor in the active fire season was low precipitation. This also reduced river and stream flows and affected water levels across northern Saskatchewan. The section of the Clearwater from the Cree Lake Moraine to the bridge crossing at Warner Rapids is a section with few rapids but a constant boulder field. Sections like this are where the low water levels have the greatest impact.

One victim of the 1999 drought was a Mentorship/Stewardship Program which the Clearwater River Dene Nation and Saskatchewan Department of Environment and Resource Management worked together to initiate. The trip by the first pair of canoeists was cut short by a wreck upstream of Warner Rapids. A sock stuffed in the puncture allowed them to make it to the bridge and out, but the program was cut short.



P. Jurrand

Fraser River

British Columbia (1998)

“Where the Salmon is King”

The Fraser River drains 238,000 sq. km., or about one quarter of British Columbia. From its headwaters on the Pacific slope of the continental divide within Mount Robson Provincial Park, it flows along a remarkable 1375 km course to the ocean at Vancouver. The Fraser Basin population is currently at approximately 2.5 million and is expected to increase to about 3.6 million over the next twenty years.

The size and diversity of the Fraser Basin combined with the growth in population poses many challenges. 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 more information on the Fraser Basin Council visit their website at www.fraserbasin.bc.ca).

Strategic land use plans have been approved and are under implementation for Robson Valley and Prince George Land and Resource Management Planning areas and the Cariboo-Chilcotin Regional Land Use plan area. A strategic land use planning process is also underway for the Lillooet Land and Resource Management Planning area. The Fraser River flows

through all of these planning areas. These government land-use initiatives are a cooperative way of ensuring a sustainable future for the environment, economy and communities, and are important to British Columbians as ninety four per cent 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).

The lower reaches of the Fraser River from the Fraser Canyon, near Lytton, downstream to the outlet into the Strait of Georgia are included in the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative (GBEI). This is a partnership between Environment Canada and BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks to clean up and prevent pollution in the Georgia Basin. The partnership is designed to include all levels of government, First Nations, communities, businesses, farmers, marina operators and boat-owners. A key component of the GBEI is the Clean Water Action Plan that has a goal to improve water quality to better protect and improve the health of the aquatic ecosystem and to promote the well-being of human inhabitants. (For more information on the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative visit the website at www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/GeorgiaBasin).

In recent years, the relationship between fish, flood protection, recreation and other water uses and power generation at hydroelectric facilities has received considerable attention. The British Columbia *Fish Protection Act* and the development of Water Use Plans for water control structures will help to address these issues. The *Fish Protection Act* focuses on four major objectives: ensuring sufficient water for fish; protecting and restoring fish habitat; improved riparian protection and enhancement; and stronger local government powers in environmental planning. One of the key provisions of this act is a ban on building new dams on specific provincially-significant rivers, including the Fraser. Water Use Plans are under way, or complete, for hydroelectric facilities on several tributaries of the Fraser.

These initiatives will enhance stewardship of the natural heritage, cultural heritage and recreational values associated with the Fraser.

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. These recommendations are presently under review as a result of Aboriginal land claims in the area. The French River Provincial Park additions proposed under Ontario’s Living Legacy include both natural heritage and recreational areas. 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 Ontario’s Living Legacy will provide a waterway link through a popular canoe route between Restoule Provincial Park and the French River.

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



“I have praised only you,
rivers, you are milk
and honey and love and
death and dance”

Czeslaw Milosz

Grand River

Ontario (1994)

“In the Heartland of Southern Ontario”

In 1999, the Grand River celebrated five years as a Canadian Heritage River. Since designation in 1994, the Grand River Conservation Authority has been working with watershed municipalities, agencies, community groups, educational institutions and First Nations through a participatory process called “The Grand Strategy” to identify watershed issues and priorities for action. These issues include improving water quality, ensuring adequate water supply, protecting the natural environment, conserving heritage resources and promoting sustainable outdoor recreation, cultural and eco-tourism. Under the umbrella of *The Grand Strategy*, several initiatives were undertaken in 1999. The following summary highlights some of the key initiatives.

The Rural Water Quality Program sponsored by Waterloo Region and many other partners resulted in 60 projects being completed on 35 farms in Waterloo Region to help landowners take a lead role in reducing pollution from rural areas. In 1999, the program was expanded to Wellington County by the County and the City of Guelph. More than 40 site visits have already been completed. The ultimate goal is to expand the Rural Water Quality Program throughout the watershed and to increase participation in the program.

The Fisheries Management Plan was completed and is now being implemented. Several community-based projects to improve fisheries habitat took place in Devil’s Creek, Thompson Creek, Kenny Creek and Gilbert Creek. An action plan to improve fish habitat in the Grand River from Inverhaugh to West Montrose was completed. In 2000, when corporate funding is obtained, the Caledonia Fishway will be reconstructed. With public participation, a management plan will be prepared for the Grand River Tailwater (Brown Trout) fishery.

The GRCA Forest Management Plan was completed and approved for properties owned by the Grand River Conservation Authority. In 2000, this will be expanded with a Watershed Forest Plan being developed with community participation. This will lay the foundation for good management of all public and private watershed forests, and set a framework for people to take action on their own lands.

Community Riverfront Plans are being designed and implemented. Major progress was made in Guelph with the completion and implementation of the Guelph River Systems Management Study, including the Alf Hales Memorial Trail near the River Run Centre. The Cambridge River Integration Study is in progress and focusing on making the river an integral part of that community. The Walter Bean Grand River Community Trail Corporation began building the trail system linking North Dumfries, Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Woolwich, as recommended by the Waterloo Corridor Conservation Plan. Sections of the Trans Canada Trail have been registered in the Grand River watershed.

In 2000, the Ramsey Trail will be established in Caledonia. Additional parts of the Trans Canada Trail will be registered in the watershed with the goal of having the Grand River portion of the trail fully linked and developed within a few years.

The Grand River Scenic Parkway was designated and attractively signed. The parkway follows existing routes along the southern section of the Grand in Haldimand-Norfolk and Six Nations lands. Grand River Country is being promoted as a tourist destination. Grand River Country signs are planned for Highways 401 and 403 and opportunities will be explored to extend the Grand River Scenic Parkway further north.

The highlight of the year was the 5th Anniversary of the Grand as a Canadian Heritage River, celebrated at the River Run Centre overlooking the Speed River in Guelph. In recognition of its status as a Canadian Heritage River, the Speed River, a major tributary of the Grand, was honoured with the unveiling of a CHRS Speed River plaque.

Also during this ceremony the Grand and the Fraser rivers were twinned. Peter Krause, Chair, GRCA and the Honourable Iona Campagnolo, Chair, Fraser Basin Council signed a formal partnership agreement. This agreement promotes exchange of information and expertise, to encourage a watershed approach to managing rivers, to undertake joint projects, to encourage community-based, collaborative efforts to improve watershed health and heritage conservation, and to strengthen the profile of these rivers as Canadian Heritage Rivers.

The Grand Actions Registry annually recognizes and celebrates the efforts of many to make the Grand River valley “an ever better place in which to live, work and play”. The 1999 Registry featured over 1,000 activities. The Grand Actions Newsletter is

now available over the internet in PDF format. This publication provides readers with information about important watershed issues and who is taking action. It can be accessed at www.grandriver.on.ca.

The designation of the Grand River and its major tributaries, the Nith, Conestogo, Speed and Eramosa provides a strong rallying point, bringing people together around key issues related to the river. As we enter the new millennium, the Grand River Conservation Authority will continue to build alliances and actions around improving watershed heritage and health.

Hillsborough River

Prince Edward Island (1997)

“Salt Water River”

The Hillsborough River, the largest watershed in the province and flowing through its most heavily populated area, is the most prominent river on Prince Edward Island.

The Hillsborough River Association is actively developing its role as the “voice of the river”. Not being able to support paid staff, the volunteer board focusses upon education and communication in the river communities. Acceptance by the communities is evident in the range of projects and issues addressed during the year. Apart from its own projects, the Association has offered support to some community initiatives and has been invited to lead the process in others.

The second annual Rivers Day was held on July 11 with a trek or paddle from Mount Stewart to the CHRS plaque in Scotchfort for ceremonies. Entertainment and festivities ensued for the rest of the day. In other projects, public access points around the river have been identified as a part of a plan to make the river and its historical and biological features accessible for residents and visitors. A website has been developed with the same objective (<http://carrefour.peicaps.org./hillsborough>) Both of these activities have been supported by the Quebec-Labrador Foundation (QLF) and are aimed at creating a tourism presence on the river.

Humber River

Ontario (1999)

“Wild in the City”

Significant resources are being invested to implement the management plan titled *Legacy: a Strategy for a Healthy Humber*. A community-based task force called “The Humber Watershed Alliance” facilitates the implementation of the management plan. Their mandate is to be river stewards; advocating and implementing both large and small scale projects. They are also responsible for communicating the challenges, opportunities and values of the river. The Alliance is a multi-stakeholder group whose members include watershed residents, community groups, agency staff and elected representatives. The Alliance is co-ordinated on behalf of the partners by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

In 1999, the *Humber River Fisheries Management Plan* was completed, and the *Terrestrial Natural Heritage Strategy* was initiated. Both documents will provide detailed information to guide management activities in the future. For example, the Fisheries Management Plan identified six human heritage features, which prevented trout and salmon from reaching productive spawning areas. Three of these barriers were modified in 1999 and they now provide fish passage. Detailed designs for the remaining three are being finalized. When completed, this work will facilitate the restoration of a sustainable migratory fishery, part of the Humber’s natural heritage.

Many other community natural heritage projects were completed in 1999 including wetland enhancement, reforestation, stream naturalisation and water quality improvements.

The inter-regional pedestrian trail continues to expand. Another 1.4 kilometres of trail and a pedestrian bridge were constructed in the City of Vaughan. The first Humber River Discovery Walk was officially launched in Toronto. This self-guided interpretive route promotes the heritage and recreation values of the Humber River.

In 1999, thousands of visitors enjoyed camping, fishing, bicycling, and nature appreciation in Conservation Areas and other publicly accessible lands. Twenty-three hectares of river valley were purchased and added to the 6,600 hectares of public greenspace.

“Rivers are one of the few items that can produce miracles...”

S.H. Semken

The *Humber Advocate* newsletter was mailed to 3,000 addresses in 1999. The newsletter keeps readers informed on community projects and upcoming events. Three editions will be published each year.

The *Humber Pledge* and *Certificate of Appreciation* have been developed to confirm partner involvement and outstanding contributions to the Humber River. A database has been developed to keep accurate annual records on heritage and recreation projects throughout the watershed.

Plans have been initiated to host the first *Images of the Humber* art exhibition. Artists will be invited to enter photographs, sculpture and paintings that portray the heritage and recreation values of the river and its watershed.

The Canadian Millennium Partnership Program approved the *Historic Humber* funding application and will provide a generous donation for recreation, education and environmental projects. The Humber Watershed Alliance will use the funding to forge partnerships and encourage community stewardship. For example, Humber Heritage events are planned for the new millennium to celebrate the Canadian Heritage Rivers designation. The first such event in May 2000 involved local MP's, councillors, First Nations historical re-enactors and the public to celebrate the permanent installation of the CHRS plaque.

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 50,000 km² drainage basin lies in the heart of the mainland portion of 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.



David Murray

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 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, to experience the vast and remote wilderness of the tundra and are also rich in scenery and opportunities for the appreciation of wildlife, vegetation and the subtle characteristics of the natural landscape.

In 1999/2000, the Government of Nunavut completed a review of the original Management Plan for the river in conjunction with its Ten-Year Monitoring Report. While the Monitoring Report indicated no changes to its nomination values, the review of the Management Plan was undertaken to reaffirm community and regional support for the Heritage River. The review placed management plan recommendations in the context of today and beyond, and established new goals for the Heritage River that the new Government of Nunavut, in partnership with the community and region can work towards to ensure the river continues to represent its community values as well as its nomination values.

Kicking Horse River

Yoho National Park, British Columbia (1989)

“River of Time”

This year marked the 10th anniversary of the designation of the Kicking Horse River. As part of the anniversary, the Ten-Year Monitoring Report was completed and tabled with the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. This report defines and compares the current conditions of the river with the nomination values of the original designation. This report should be available for public review by the summer of 2000.

Most of the work related to the river in 1999/2000 was associated with the planning of adjacent land uses. At the Park scale, work continued to complete the Management Plan for Yoho National Park. It is intended that once approved, the Park Management Plan will also function as the management plan for the Kicking Horse River. Within the management plan there will be indicators and targets for ecological integrity (i.e. water quality). Many of these indicators will have a direct relationship to the health of the Kicking Horse River. Approval of the plan is expected sometime in 2000. A second planning process concluded with the preparation and approval of a Community Plan for Field townsite. This plan represents a new approach to addressing issues of development and

growth and recognizes the recreational, scenic and ecological values of the Kicking Horse River. The plan proposes to protect the river edge through the restoration of existing vegetation, the replanting of native species and the provision of a designated walking trail. Since completion, the plan has received two awards through the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects Professional Awards Program (National Citation Award in Planning and Analysis and Regional Merit Award in Planning and Analysis).

Other monitoring work included the continuation of an annual Streamkeepers program to assess biological and hydrological conditions of tributary watercourses; forest biodiversity monitoring and breeding bird surveys of adjacent wetland habitats.

Public recreational use of the river remains low, despite the continued growth of commercial and private activities on the non-designated section of the Kicking Horse River outside of Yoho National Park.

Margaree River

Nova Scotia (1998)

“Secret Pools and Tranquil Glades”

The official designation and plaque unveiling ceremony for the Margaree- Lake Ainslie Canadian Heritage River was held on Sunday, August 1, 1999, in Margaree Forks. Approximately 150 people joined in under a hot August sun to listen to community and government representatives speak about the process of designating the river, and of the importance of continuing community stewardship of this significant heritage resource.



Margaree River

Sheena Masson

Early in 1999, a new community group was formed, consisting of a cross section of interests from communities throughout the watershed. This group will be a focal point for community input into stewardship of the watershed, and will assist in implementing the management plan.

Mattawa River

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

“The Spirit of the Voyageurs”

The first Ten-Year Monitoring Report for the Mattawa River was published in 1999. Community interest in the Mattawa River has expanded over the past year to include municipalities, and very strong support from the North Bay-Mattawa River Conservation Authority. A nomination document has been prepared which recommends an extension of the existing Mattawa Canadian Heritage Rivers System designation to include other sections of this river previously undesignated. The historic La Vase Portage is to be included in this extension. Progress on this initiative will be reported on in next year’s Annual Report, and on the CHRS website.

Consultation has continued over the past year resulting in recommended changes in park boundaries under Ontario’s Living Legacy. The Mattawa River Provincial Park additions include both natural heritage and recreational areas (11,300 hectares), and will contribute to the ecological sustainability of the river. Flowing into the Mattawa, the Amble du Fond River will be designated as a waterway park under Ontario’s Living Legacy and will provide an important canoeing link between Algonquin Park and the Mattawa River at Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park. These changes will add important ecological and recreational features to the river, and will bring greater awareness to the heritage and community values of the river in the future.

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

North Saskatchewan River

Banff National Park, Alberta (1989)

“Rocky Mountain River”

Parks Canada has opened the North Saskatchewan Park Warden station on a year-round basis. The station is located south of the Highway 93N and Highway 11 junction.

Parks Canada and Environment Canada continue to collect water quality data on the North Saskatchewan River at Whirlpool Point. This monitoring program has been in place since the mid 1970’s.

The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance has recently been formed to protect and improve water quality and ecosystem function in the North Saskatchewan watershed within Alberta. Membership within the group includes industry, agriculture, municipalities, government, aboriginal communities, education/research and recreation, culture and tourism organizations. The Alliance has recently established a standing steering committee, completed by-laws and a five-year business plan and have made application to become a non-profit society. A website featuring the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance can be found at www.nswa.ab.ca.



North Saskatchewan River

Lynn Noel

Seal River

Manitoba (1992)

“Waves, Whales and Wolverines”

The Seal River, in far northern Manitoba, remains one of the province’s premier wilderness canoe trips. The river’s relative isolation limits recreational use to those ardent canoeists willing to make the effort to get to this pristine landscape. This same isolation helps protect the river’s significant natural, cultural and recreational values.

These values remain unchanged from previous years.

Recognizing the fragility of the area, Manitoba Conservation continues to defer the few applications for commercial outfitting on the river. Existing outfitters and non-commercial tripping on the river continue at their current levels. An assessment to determine appropriate levels of use will be done as part of a revision to the management plan in the next two years.

A prominent event in the winter of 1999/2000 was the migration of the Beverly-Qamanirjuaq caribou herd into the Seal River area. The Seal River area is part of the herd’s wintering ground, though it has been some time since the caribou have migrated this close to the community of Tadoule Lake. Barren ground caribou are a significant food source for the people of the Sayisi Dene First Nation living there.

Shelburne River

Nova Scotia (1997)

“Still Waters, Ancient Forests”

The Shelburne River flows 53 km through the interior of Nova Scotia. It is the most remote wilderness river in the province. The Shelburne forms an important part of the spider web of rivers and lakes which serve as interconnecting canoe routes that link with Kejimikujik National Park. The area supports a relatively large black bear population, and the largest moose population on mainland Nova Scotia.

More than half of the Shelburne River watershed is protected within the Tobeatic Wilderness Area. The major private landowner, Bowater Mersey Paper Company Limited, has undertaken to adopt special management practices aimed at protecting the river corridor where it passes through its holdings.

During the past year a base line water monitoring program was initiated with water samples taken in three locations. Observations suggest that wilderness recreation is increasing slightly with wider recognition of the Shelburne as a Canadian Heritage River and the recent designation of the Tobeatic Wilderness Area.

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 – creating tides of over 10.6 m. The valley’s microclimate has created a landscape rich with willow, sedges and heathers and berries not found elsewhere in the Arctic Islands. In 1999/2000 the Government of Nunavut tested samples of the Willows and found that they are growing faster than similar willows in areas of Ontario and Alberta, and that at times within their 70 years, experienced varied climate conditions that influenced their growth rates.

The river runs through Katannilik Territorial Park Reserve – a 1,270 sq. km. destination park in South Baffin. 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 falcons. 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.

In the valley, tourism activities continue to grow. People from around the world come to Katannilik to canoe, or raft the Soper River; or hike and camp

along the valley. The trend is towards longer trips that enable visitors to better appreciate the unique environment through hikes into the valley and into the hills above. A 1999 Economic Impact Study undertaken by the Government

“The care of rivers is not
a matter of rivers, but
of the human heart...”

Tanaka Shozo

of Nunavut for Katannilik Park found that since 1993 when the park was established, tourism has increased five-fold, with summer hiking and rafting on the Soper River being the main draw. This increase in visitor use is now responsible for more than \$400,000 in arts and crafts, accommodations, and guiding and outfitting to Kimmirut; and is expected to continue growing as park development occurs – in keeping with the park's Master Plan, developed in conjunction with park establishment.

A Science Camp pilot project was initiated in the summer of 1999, and brought 28 youth from Kimmirut aged 10-18 over 125 camp-nights into the River 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. The pilot project was so successful that it is being renewed and expanded in 2000.

South Nahanni River

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

"River of Legend and Lore"

Visitation to Nahanni National Park Reserve (NNPR) in 1999 was similar to the levels experienced in 1998 with a total of 576 overnight users who travelled the river and approximately 200 day use visitors to Virginia Falls. Commercially guided trips accounted for 62% of the overnight users, although private trips accounted for 64% of the actual overnight departures.

An extreme high water event occurred in mid-June, 1999. Considerable flooding occurred along the lower stretches of the South Nahanni River. The Water Survey of Canada operates stream flow gauging stations near Virginia Falls, and on the Flat River just above the confluence with the South Nahanni River. The Flat River gauging station had never recorded such high water levels since the station began operating in 1972. In Deadmen Valley, a park patrol cabin was damaged by flooding, and severe bank erosion resulted in most of the campground near the Forestry Cabin being washed away. This historic cabin contains several hundred tiny paddles that have been carved by river travellers and Parks Canada, Cultural Resource



Parks Canada

Management staff will assess the cabin in the summer of 2000 to decide what to do with the paddles before continued erosion places the cabin at risk of being lost to the river. The community of Nahanni Butte, at the mouth of the South Nahanni River was placed on evacuation alert for a period of time during the flood.

In January 1999 a Conservation Biologist was recruited, to replace a vacant warden position. This new position will be dedicated to issues of Ecosystem Management. In addition to spending as much time as possible in the field trying to become familiar with the park environment, projects undertaken in 1999 included development of a draft Ecological Integrity Statement for the park, continued work in cooperation with other agencies on woodland caribou research, and continued water quality monitoring along the South Nahanni River.

The Deh Cho First Nations (DCFN) have begun negotiations with the Government of Canada, and significant developments took place during the fall of 1999 with regards to the Deh Cho Process, and the two parties continue to work towards a formal Interim Measures Agreement. One significant aspect of the discussions to date is a proposal by the DCFN to withdraw the entire South Nahanni River watershed as a potential national park. As discussions continue, NNPR will work to develop a closer working relationship with the DCFN. This new relationship will see the establishment of a cooperative management

framework for NNPR. The upcoming review of the Park Management Plan will be guided by a committee including representatives of the Deh Cho First Nations, Parks Canada, and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. Nahanni National Park Reserve is very excited about the opportunity to work in partnership with these groups.

St. Croix River

New Brunswick (1991)

“Currents of History”

A wide variety of studies and activities took place on the St. Croix in 1999/2000, falling into the categories of planning, monitoring, interpretation/education and development.

Planning activities included a 1999 study of recreational use on the upper St. Croix system by the University of New Brunswick which showed high satisfaction among users, the majority of whom are experienced natural area users making multi-day canoe trips. The study offers recommendations to maintain the future quality of backcountry recreation on the waterway.

A celebration and legacy master plan was completed for the coming 400th anniversary celebration of St. Croix Island as the first French settlement in North America, to take place in 2004. An Executive Director was hired by the St. Croix 2004 Committee to begin the plan’s implementation.

New Brunswick completed resource assessments of 390,000 acres in the St. Croix watershed which it acquired in March 1999, to assist in planning for management options. Wagner Forest Management Ltd. acquired 446,000 acres of the watershed in Maine and showed interest in planning conservation easements to protect backcountry shorefronts from future development.

The International Joint Commission hosted a St. Croix water quality workshop in August. This event recognized the St. Croix’s CHRS management plan as an appropriate vision and guide for water and resource management and the St. Croix International Waterway Commission as the most appropriate body to coordinate resource and heritage management.

New Brunswick and Maine departments of transportation cooperated on impact assessments for a proposed new highway crossing of the St. Croix River in the St. Stephen/Calais area.

Monitoring activities included ten months of research and public consultation leading to a proposal for the classification of all St. Croix waters under a draft provincial water classification system. All waters met the highest (Class A) standard. Major lakes were monitored by volunteers on an on-going basis. A coastal algae linked to temperature and nutrients was the subject of a baseline study.

Monitoring of sea-run Atlantic salmon and alewife populations showed these to hit a 19-year low, attributed to poor marine survival affecting many Atlantic fisheries and to insufficient spawning stocks. Remedial action is planned for 2000/2001.

After five years of monitoring and remedial action, nearly 1,000 acres of intertidal beach at Oak Bay was re-opened to clam digging after a 49-year pollution closure. The area will be used to pilot sustainable harvesting of clam stocks. Local residents, visitors and commercial diggers joined in an opening day ceremony honouring the return of a cultural maritime tradition.

Research on a new dragonfly species found first on the St. Croix in 1997 was published in “The Canadian Entomologist”, giving formal recognition to this discovery.

Interpretation activities included the formation of a steering committee for a \$6.6 million Downeast Heritage Center to be built in Calais, Maine. Active fund raising and site acquisition was initiated for this facility, which will interpret the St. Croix area’s natural and cultural heritage.

Local middle schools piloted a curriculum on the St. Croix’s early French settlement developed by the US National Parks Service. St. Stephen Elementary School hosted a regional heritage fair.

The New Brunswick Community College system initiated a two-year Outdoor Adventure Guide program based in the St. Croix area.

Major development activity took place in the town of St. Stephen at the mouth of the St. Croix., where the second phase of a heritage waterfront park development was completed.

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 river lies in the heart of the mainland portion of Nunavut Territory and is noteworthy for its pristine, undisturbed character. The corridor straddles the new boundary between the Northwest Territories and Nunavut 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.

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 1999/2000, the Government of Nunavut, Kivalliq Inuit Association, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated met to finalize a Management Plan for the Sanctuary in keeping with the obligations under the Nunavut



Thelon River

Max Finkelstein

Land Claim Agreement. The plan, developed by the community of Baker Lake and the Kivalliq Inuit Association several years ago, 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 of the plan, including support from the Northwest Territories, should take place in 2000.

Also in 1999/2000, the Government of Nunavut completed a review of the original Management Plan for the river in conjunction with its Ten-Year Monitoring Report. While the Monitoring Report indicated no changes to its nomination values, the review of the Management Plan was undertaken to reaffirm community and regional support for the Heritage River, and to place management plan recommendations in the context of today and beyond, and establish new goals for the Heritage River that the new Government of Nunavut, in partnership with the community and region can work towards to ensure the river continues to represent its community values as well as its nomination values.

Because the Thelon River has not lost any of these original values, it is becoming increasingly attractive as a destination for wilderness river users. Such trips have incredible value in appreciating the undisturbed character of this wilderness transition zone, the life of the early inhabitants of the area, and its outstanding wildlife populations. Through appropriate management and development as confirmed in the Management Plan review, use of the river will continue to grow without impacting on any of the river's values.

Upper Restigouche River

New Brunswick (1998)

“River of Enchantment”

The Restigouche River Management Committee was again active in celebrating the diverse cultural heritage associated with the Restigouche River; Micmac, Irish, French, English, and Scottish, this river celebration proved very popular when the river was designated in 1998. The Committee hopes to make this celebration an annual event in the various river communities. The Restigouche Folklore and Arts Roundup published a “Cultural Register” which provides a guide to museums, art galleries, theatres, and the names of local artists, writers and musicians.

The Recreation Management Program of the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy was continued in 1999. Emphasis is on public information and education regarding the Canadian Heritage Rivers System and the use of the river for recreational canoeing and salmon angling, promotion of the “Carry In Carry Out” ethic, the development and maintenance of recreation facilities, and voluntary registration and enforcement. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in co-operation with the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy, co-ordinated the enforcement of safe boating regulations which included emphasis on new regulations being introduced by the Canadian Coast Guard in 1999 and 2000.

The New Brunswick Department of Environment and Energy continued base line water sampling in 1999. The analysis to date indicates that the river meets the national standards for water quality. It was decided to complete a fourth year of sampling in 2000 in order to provide for a more comprehensive data analysis.

The development of the International Appalachian Trail continued within the river corridor. The entire 1,000 km hiking trail is now officially open, linking Maine, Quebec and New Brunswick. Special attention was given to developing lookouts, which provide panoramic views of the Restigouche River. Recreationists are now showing interest in hiking and canoeing sections of the trail.

Yukon River

The Thirty-Mile Section, Yukon (1991)

“River of Gold”

The conditions on The Thirty-Mile remain unchanged. The Ta’an Kwach’an First Nation continues to monitor river use, interacting with visitors and maintaining the campsites. The local First Nation, the Mundessa Corporation, was contracted to monitor and assist river travellers in emergencies.

The major complaint of river users in the past has been the condition of the toilet facilities caused by over-winter freezing and delayed spring melting. Reduction of human impact on the river environment was accomplished through the implementation of a portable holding tank toilet system. All human wastes are now removed from the river corridor by boat and transported to the Whitehorse sewage facilities for disposal. The new disposal method has eliminated the complaints and provides better environmental protection.

The Wilderness Tourism Licensing Act, 1998 has been implemented, and will help maintain the uncrowded and pristine nature of the Thirty-Mile section. The Act requires all Yukon Wilderness Tourism Operators to possess a license and report trip data. The trip data will be used in the long term planning and management of this river corridor to ensure sustainable use.



Yukon River

Finlay McRae



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, management 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.

British Columbia continues to play a leadership role in broadening the concept of Heritage Rivers having created the first provincial Heritage Rivers system. Twenty rivers have been included in the BC Heritage Rivers System. Over the next few years, BC plans to seek formal inclusion of both the Stikine and Cowichan rivers in the CHRS. For further information on BC Heritage Rivers, contact the BC Heritage Rivers Board, 2nd Floor, 800 Johnson St., Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4, (250) 387-5002; bchrs@islandnet.com. Visit their website at <http://www.islandnet.com/bchrs>.

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.

While no system studies were undertaken in 1999/2000, the system study of Manitoba's rivers completed in 1997 continues to serve as a useful reference for future studies of this type. The Manitoba study was the first to make use of the national frameworks for natural and cultural heritage, and included an initial attempt to design a recreational framework that may, in the future, be used system-wide. The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board has approved the preparation of a System Study of rivers in Labrador to commence next year.

Background Studies

To provide more detailed information on the suitability of rivers, or sections of rivers, for inclusion in the CHRS, background studies may be undertaken. These studies attempt to collect all available information, from secondary sources and through field verification, on a river's natural and cultural 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 river's heritage and recreational values in detail.

In 1999/2000, a background study was drafted for the Montague, Cardigan and Brudenell rivers in Prince Edward Island.

Nomination Documents

For the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board to consider recommending a river for inclusion in the CHRS, nominating governments must submit a nomination document for formal review by the Board. In 1999/2000, nomination documents were approved for the Hayes River (Manitoba) and the Detroit River (Ontario). Further information was added, strengthening the nomination document for the Cowichan River (British Columbia).

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 1999/2000, management plans were approved for the Thames, St. Marys and Rideau Waterway (all in Ontario). In seeking the designation of the Rideau Waterway as a Canadian Heritage River, a “Bridging” document was prepared relating Parks Canada’s Rideau Canal Management Plan (1996) to the guidelines of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. Management Plans were also started for the Clearwater River (Alberta), the Detroit River (Ontario), and the Tatshenshini River (Yukon). Parks Canada continued to assist in ongoing management planning for the Missinaibi River (Ontario) and the Main and Bay du Nord rivers (Newfoundland).

Research

National Frameworks

As the Canadian Heritage Rivers System expands to include almost forty rivers, assessment methods grow with it. A Cultural Framework for Canadian Heritage Rivers (1997) and a Framework for the Natural Values of Canadian Heritage Rivers (1998) are being applied as the basis for a systematic approach to the inclusion and assessment of cultural and natural values in the CHRS. Application of the Cultural Framework showed that it required certain revisions, which have been made. The nomination document for the Hayes River (Manitoba) was used as a model for integrating the Framework into CHRS nomination documents. A report containing tabulations of cultural and natural themes represented by rivers in the CHRS continues to be updated.

Planning Template

A planning template prepared as a tool to enhance the planning and management of Canadian Heritage Rivers located outside protected areas was put to frequent use. The template is intended to help CHRS management plans harmonize with existing programs and policies of managing agencies, and simultaneously to enable management of the rivers as components of a national system representing Canada’s river heritage. ❁





Public Promotion and Marketing

This past year was a productive one for CHRS communications as several new initiatives were begun or completed in addition to our annual projects and events. A major focus was the building of the new website. As well, a new CHRS video profiling the experiences of people living along five Canadian Heritage Rivers was completed. The new CHRS brochure featuring all rivers in the system is ready to print.

Electronic Media www.chrs.ca

The new CHRS website (www.chrs.ca) was launched in September, 1999. The new 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, and 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 websites 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. Before September, the old CHRS site received a mere 2,300 visits per month. That number jumped to over 30,000 per month upon the new sites release. By March 2000, the number of visits had increased to over 60,000 per month!

Print Media

Ten-Year Monitoring Reports were produced for the Mattawa, French, North Saskatchewan, Athabasca, and Kicking Horse rivers. Work was also undertaken on Ten-Year Monitoring Reports for the Kazan and Thelon rivers (Nunavut). These reports indicated both deterioration and improvement to nominated values. Most deterioration can be attributed to higher levels of use, particularly for the three mountain rivers. While much remains to be done, these rivers remain in good condition in spite of changes and increasing stresses over the past decade.

The CHRS was the topic of a number of very positive media articles over the year including several feature articles in River Magazine on Canadian Heritage Rivers, including the Thelon, Rideau, and Soper.

Video

Soft Science Productions was contracted to produce a video profiling five Canadian Heritage Rivers – the Grand, Fraser, St. Croix, Soper, and Clearwater. The production entitled “Community Reflections on Canadian Heritage Rivers”, looks at how the designation of a Heritage River has affected the lives of people living along these rivers. The production has been very favourably received. For information on how to obtain a copy of this video, contact the Canadian Heritage Rivers Secretariat.

Good Earth Productions, the company responsible for the highly successful Great Canadian Parks series, began work on a series entitled Great Canadian Rivers, profiling 14 rivers in Canada the first season, including ten Heritage Rivers – the Grand, Churchill, Yukon, Hayes, Kazan, French, Athabasca, St. Croix, Fraser, and Margaree.

The series will be broadcast on the Discovery Channel starting in January, 2001.

Conferences and Exhibits

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System was highlighted in a display at the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg. This exhibit, integrated as part of the main Parks Canada display at Canada House, which is situated at the historic site of the Forks, featured a walk-through photo gallery, locational maps, spectacular videos of Heritage Rivers, information describing the program and posters. The official opening of the Canada House pavilion took place on July 22, 1999.

The CHRS was also represented at the River Management Society Conference held in Charleston, South Carolina, in the spring of 2000. Sessions were given on the CHRS program, and the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route. The theme of the conference was Blending Art and Science in River Management.

Smaller CHRS panel exhibits were also displayed at various venues across Canada during the year, including Canoe Expo in Toronto, and the Heritage Canoe Festival in Peterborough.

The Third Canada's River Heritage Conference:

"Caring for the Waters that Connect Us"



THE 3RD
CANADIAN RIVER HERITAGE
CONFERENCE

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, JUNE 3-6, 2001

The Third Canada's River Heritage Conference will be held June 3-6, 2001, at the Sheraton Hotel, in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Building on the River Conference's of 1994 in Peterborough, Ontario, and 1998 in Richmond, B.C., the 2001 Conference offers a unique opportunity for learning, sharing and discovery. The conference, which is co-hosted by the St. John River Society and the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, is expected to attract delegates from across Canada and the eastern United States. Abstracts for presentations are invited.

For more information, visit the conference website (www.Riverconference2001.com), or contact:

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Cooperative Activities

Retracing the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route

Over the summer of 1999, Max Finkelstein of the CHRS Secretariat continued his volunteer journey to retrace the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route across Canada.

This trip generated regional and national media coverage which in turn helps promote the CHRS program and the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route. Since his return, Max has given slide shows on his trip at a variety of venues, including the River Management Society Conference, the Heritage Canoe Festival, and has been selected as the speaker for the second Kirk Wipper Lecture at Trent University. Information on the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route is available from the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route Association at 1-888-484-7035 or at www.amvr.org.

You can follow Max's journey by visiting his website at www.voyageur.carleton.ca. Max is currently working on a book on the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route.

Canadian Heritage Rivers Calendar

The Board once again renewed its agreement with the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association (CRCA) to produce the 2000 Canadian Heritage Rivers Calendar. This edition of the calendar was extremely successful, and all English copies were distributed. Sales of the 2000 calendar were very strong with 10,000 calendars being produced generating gross sales of more than \$27,000. Proceeds are used to support national river conservation projects sponsored by the CRCA, such as river clean-ups. The 2001 calendar is now in the planning phases and will be available for \$14.95 plus shipping and handling. For more information about the calendar, contact the CRCA at (613) 269-2910 or staff@crca.ca.

The CHRS Commemorative Program

Three plaque unveiling ceremonies were held during the summer/fall of 1999. These events raise public awareness of the CHRS and act as a focus for special events planned by the local communities.

The Margaree River, one of the world's best known destinations for Atlantic salmon fishing, was officially welcomed into the CHRS with a plaque unveiling ceremony on August 1, 1999.

Approximately 150 people joined in under a hot August sun to listen to community and government representatives speak about the process of designating the river, and of the importance of continuing community stewardship of this significant heritage resource.

The highlight of the ceremony was the unveiling of the Heritage River plaque, on which the inscription is presented in four languages, English, French, Mi'kmaq and Gaelic.

A CHRS Plaque unveiling ceremony for the Humber River took place on September 24, 1999 at Étienne Brulé Park in Toronto. The Honourable Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage and John Snobelen, Minister of Natural Resources for Ontario, were joined by First Nations Chiefs and hundreds of onlookers, as the plaque to designate the Humber was unveiled. The management of the Humber as a Canadian Heritage River will be guided by *Legacy: a Strategy for a Healthy Humber*. For more information, contact the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority at (416) 661-6600, or visit their website at www.trca.on.ca.

On October 29, 1999, the 5th Anniversary of the Grand as a Canadian Heritage River was celebrated at the River Run Centre overlooking the Speed River in Guelph. In recognition of its status as a Canadian Heritage River, the Speed River, a major tributary of the Grand, was honoured with the unveiling of a CHRS Speed River plaque.

Also during this ceremony the Grand and the Fraser Rivers were twinned. Peter Krause, Chair, GRCA and the Honourable Iona Campagnolo, Chair, Fraser Basin Council signed a formal partnership agreement.

To mark the occasion of the twinning, a commemorative poster was unveiled and presented to the two Chairs. This handsome poster features two paintings by Homer Watson (1855-1936), internationally renowned artist from Kitchener (Doon). The paintings depict the Grand River at Doon and the Fraser River.

This Heritage Rivers twinning initiative is a first of its kind in Canada and is intended to foster communications and cross country linkages between communities within these two watersheds. The Fraser Basin Council and the Grand River Conservation Authority are already looking towards planning a joint project, yet to be determined, which will be completed within the next six months to kick off this partnership. ❁

For more Information:

Questions and requests for general information on the CHRS should be addressed to:

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