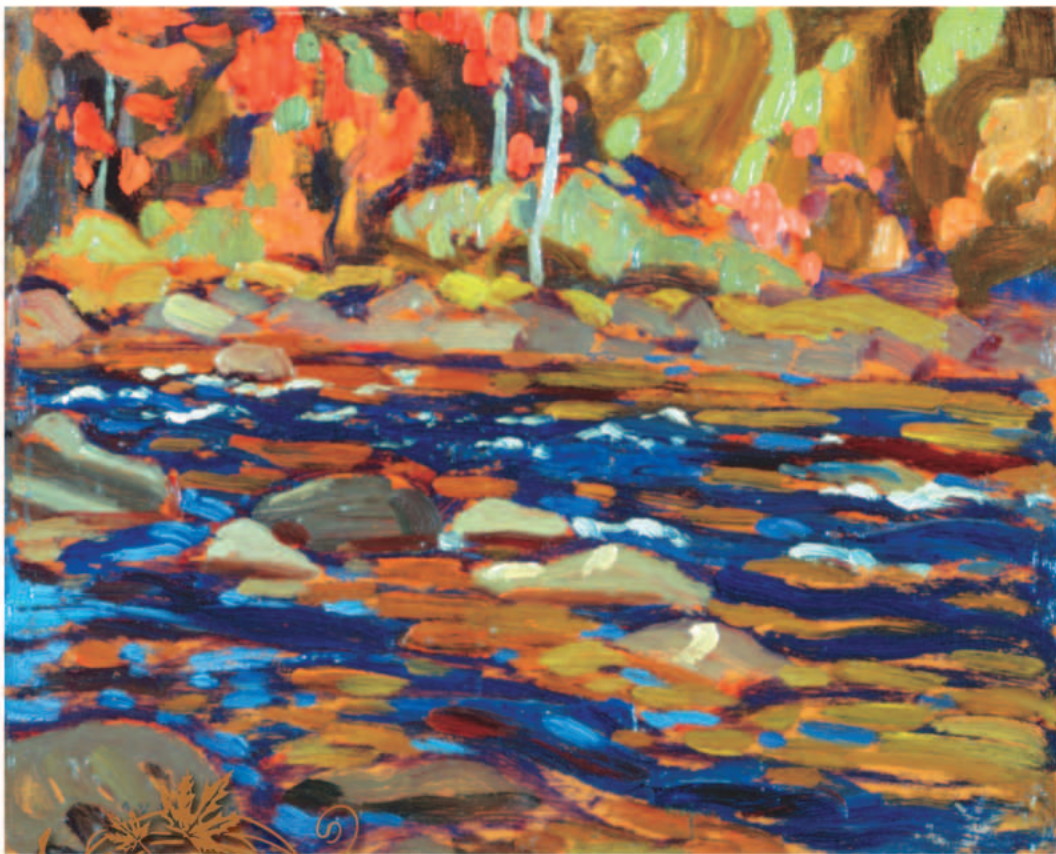




The
Canadian
Heritage Rivers
System



ANNUAL REPORT
 2004-2005



April, 2005

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
Twenty-first Annual Report on the Canadian
Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) for the fiscal
year 2004-2005.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerry LePrieur". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Gerry LePrieur
Chairperson
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board
2004-2005



© Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 2005

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

Ottawa, 2005

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Cover Art: A.Y. Jackson, Autumn Algoma, c. 1919 oil on wood panel, McMichael Canadian Art Collection, gift of Mr. S. Walter Stewart 1968, Courtesy of the Estate of the late Dr. Naomi Jackson Groves

A.Y. Jackson



“A.Y.” Jackson, the man often regarded as the leading advocate for the Group of Seven, was born in Montreal on October 3, 1882. Like other members of the Group of Seven he was trained as a Commercial Artist and for many years made his living by that means. He apprenticed to a Montreal lithographer at the age of 12, and though he later spent two and a half years in France studying painting, he was soon back in Canada paying his rent by designing cigar labels.

In 1920, with Lawren Harris, Arthur Lismer, Frank Carmichael, Fred Varley, James MacDonald and Frank Johnston, he formed the most famous exhibitors’ group in the history of Canadian painting: the Group of Seven.

He became great friends with Tom Thompson, and together they travelled by canoe on the rivers and lakes of northern Ontario. He was a great traveller, and he painted the Arctic, the West Coast, the Prairies, and the North Woods, as well as his beloved St. Lawrence, where his countless sketching expeditions earned him the nickname “Père Raquette – Pappa Snowshoe”.

He is always referred to as “A.Y.”

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Parks Canada

The Rideau King provided luxury travel between Kingston and Ottawa on the Rideau Waterway in the late 1800s.

Chairperson's Report:

Into our third decade!

My office window overlooks the tenth largest lake in the world, drained by the tenth longest river in the world. The waters of the lake and river are now covered by a metres-thick layer of ice, but the ice does not prevent them from reverberating with the footsteps and paddle strokes of the past. The crunch of snowshoes and the hiss of sled runners of fur traders and prospectors; the splash of paddles of Mackenzie and his voyageurs in their 1788 dash that ended at the "Hyperborean Sea" instead of the Pacific; the voices of native peoples who have used the river and lake as highways for millennia.

I listen to the lake and river, and the stories they tell me. I realize that although these waters speak most clearly to me, the waters all across Canada reverberate with stories. They are the memory of the land. Canada is blessed with rivers and lakes. Among the world's nations, Canada ranks fifth in total river flow, just after China. Along with the Mackenzie, the St. Lawrence, Yukon and Columbia all rank in the world's top 25 rivers with the greatest flow. And Canada does have more than half of the world's fresh water held in lakes. They have given us, as Canadians, a unique and wonderful place to call home, and frozen surfaces to play hockey on. Our goal in the CHRS is to give something back to all Canadians, and to our rivers, by celebrating and protecting them.

It has been a busy year for the CHRS program. Three rivers were designated this year, the Missinaibi in Ontario, the Tatshenshini in the Yukon, and The Three Rivers in Prince Edward Island. There are now 39 rivers in the system, of which 34 have been designated. Progress continues for the nomination of some of Canada's best-known rivers: the Mackenzie River, the Red River, the Saint John, and the Ottawa. These rivers present a tremendous challenge, as they cross political jurisdictions, and involve consultations



Gerry LePrieur

with all levels of government, Aboriginal interests, public interest groups and private landowners. In meeting the challenge, the CHRS is poised to take a quantum leap in its role as Canada's national river conservation program. The focus of the program is also poised to change from adding new rivers to the program to monitoring the effectiveness of the measures taken to ensure the wise management of rivers in the CHRS.

On a celebratory positive note, the 4th Canadian River Heritage Conference in Guelph was a tremendous success and a great opportunity to meet, discuss, celebrate and learn how rivers shape our lives and societies. This conference also marked the tenth anniversary of the Grand as a Canadian Heritage River, (www.grandriver.ca) and the 20th anniversary of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System itself (see www.chrs.ca). A memorable highlight of the event was the keynote addresses from truly outstanding advocates; Robert Kennedy Jr., founder and President of Waterkeeper Alliance, as well as author and botanical adventurer Wade Davis, Canada's river raconteur James Raffan, river conservationist extraordinaire Mark Angelo, and Roberta Jamieson, elected Chief of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, and the magical night of music and poetry, which is fondly remembered as "Guelphstock". The ideas and dreams generated at this event, swirling like eddies at the confluence of rivers, will continue to shape our work in river management for decades to come.

Working on river management in the north has its own special challenges. The NWT is one of the least populated places on the planet, and our rivers among the most pristine. But we cannot depend on our splendid isolation to protect our fresh waters. Here in the north, we are seeing huge changes taking place – widespread industrialization of the boreal forest and tundra, an influx of people that has never been witnessed before in the history of the north,



and dramatic, widespread climate change. These do not make good environmental bedfellows, and are the biggest challenges facing us as river managers, not only here in the north, but for rivers all across Canada.

What does the future hold for Canada's rivers? While many government-sponsored and community-based conservation success stories are taking place on Canada's rivers, we have to step back and look at the big threats that loom like thunderheads on the horizon: global climate change, the paradigm of constant economic growth that is, by any definition, unsustainable, and the cumulative ecological and societal impacts that constant growth and climate change ultimately and inevitably will cause. But if we continue to make decisions without losing sight of the central role of rivers and healthy, natural ecosystems to the well-being of Canadians, we can't stray too far off the right path.

I look forward to continuing to promote and celebrate the NWT's heritage rivers along with the other rivers across the country, and to lead the charge in celebrating Canadian Rivers Day. I have been most honoured to serve as the Chair of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. I look forward to serving with John Kristensen, the new chairperson from Alberta. 🍁

Gerry LePrieur

Chairperson
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board
2004-2005



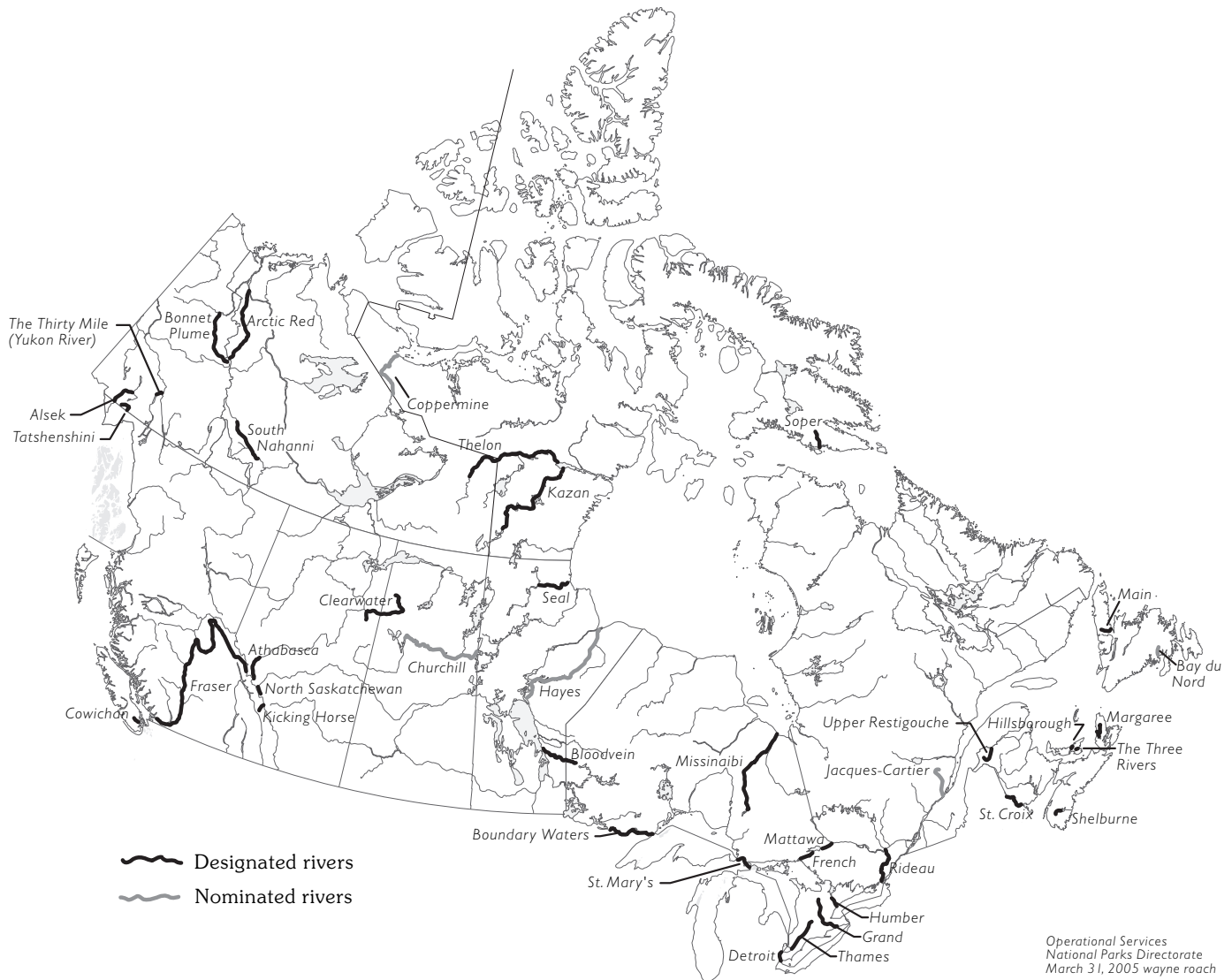
Parks Canada

Birch bark Canot de Maître, built in 1967, on the Mattawa River. This canoe is now on display at Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park.

Status of the CHRS

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is Canada's national program for freshwater heritage conservation. It is a cooperative 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, cultural and recreational values for the benefit and enjoyment of Canadians, now and in the future.

Thirty-nine rivers have been nominated to the CHRS, totalling 9922 kms. Thirty-four of these have been designated, meaning that the management plans detailing how their heritage values will be protected have been lodged with the CHR Board.





Designated Rivers

River	Location Province/Territory (Park ¹)	Date of Designation	Length (in km)
French	Ontario (French River PP)	February 1986	110
Alsek	Yukon (Kluane NP)	February 1986	90
South Nahanni	Northwest Territories (Nahanni NP Reserve)	January 1987	300
Mattawa ³	Ontario (Mattawa PP and Samuel de Champlain PP)	January 1988	76
Athabasca ⁷	Alberta (Jasper NP)	January 1989	168
North Saskatchewan ⁷	Alberta (Banff NP)	January 1989	49
Kicking Horse ⁷	British Columbia (Yoho NP)	January 1990	67
Kazan	Nunavut	July 1990	615
Thelon	Nunavut	July 1990	545
St. Croix	New Brunswick	January 1991	185
Yukon – The Thirty Mile ⁷	Yukon	January 1992	48
Seal	Manitoba	June 1992	260
Soper ⁵	Nunavut (Katannilik Territorial Park Reserve)	June 1992	248
Arctic Red	Northwest Territories	September 1993	450
Grand ⁶	Ontario	January 1994	627
Boundary Waters/Voyageur Waterway	Ontario (La Verendrye/Quetico/Pigeon River PPs)	September 1996	250
Hillsborough	Prince Edward Island	January 1997	45
Shelburne	Nova Scotia	June 1997	53
Bonnet Plume ⁶	Yukon	February 1998	350
Upper Restigouche	New Brunswick	February 1998	55
Bloodvein ⁴	Manitoba (Atikaki PP), Ontario (Woodland Caribou PP)	June 1998	306
Margaree ⁵	Nova Scotia	June 1998	120
Fraser ⁴	British Columbia	June 1998	1375
Humber ⁶	Ontario	February 1999	100
Rideau	Ontario (Rideau Waterway – Parks Canada)	February 2000	202
Thames ⁶	Ontario	February 2000	273
St. Mary's	Ontario	February 2000	125
Detroit ⁶	Ontario	February 2001	51
Main	Newfoundland	February 2001	57
Clearwater ²	Alberta, Saskatchewan (Clearwater River PP)	October 2003	326
Cowichan	British Columbia	October 2003	47
Missinaibi	Ontario (Missinaibi PP)	May 2004	501
Tatshenshini	Yukon	May 2004	45
The Three Rivers	Prince Edward Island	May 2004	73
TOTAL			8192

Nominated Rivers

River	Location Province/Territory (Park)	Anticipated Designation Date	Length (in km)
Bay du Nord	Newfoundland (Bay du Nord Wilderness Park Reserve)	August 2005	75
Hayes	Manitoba	August 2005	590
Churchill	Saskatchewan	May 2006	487
Coppermine	Nunavut	May 2006	450
Jacques-Cartier	Quebec (Jacques-Cartier PP)		128

TOTAL 1730

TOTAL km of NOMINATED and DESIGNATED RIVERS 9922

1. PP denotes provincial parks;
NP denotes national parks;
PWP denotes provincial wilderness park.
2. Clearwater River was nominated in two section by Saskatchewan and Alberta.
The Saskatchewan Section was designated in 1987; the Alberta section was designated in 2003.
3. Extensions to the Mattawa were added in 2001, including the 11 km historic La Vase Portages connecting the headwaters to Lake Nipissing, as well as a downstream extension to its confluence with the Ottawa River.
4. Bloodvein River (Manitoba section) was designated in 1987.
5. Includes mainstream and major tributaries.
6. Includes entire watershed.
7. Includes a segment of the river.

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.

Status of the CHRS Strategic Plan

The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board continued over the past year to implement and evaluate the CHRS's Ten Year Strategic Plan. 2005 represents the ninth year in the implementation of the Strategic Plan which has guided the program's development. The Strategic Plan identified four key strategic issues which are the foundation for organizing actions towards achieving our mission by 2006; actively managing the system, communications, leadership and resourcing.

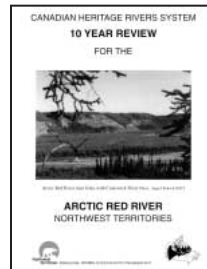
Some of the achievements in 2004-2005 towards these four initiatives include the following:

Actively Managing and Completing the System:

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.

Major Projects for 2004-2005:

- Commenced a background study of the Adams River British Columbia.
- Continued ongoing work on the background studies for the Ottawa (Ontario and Quebec), Mackenzie (N.W.T.) and St. John (New Brunswick) rivers.
- Completed the background study of the Red River, Manitoba.
- Final management plans produced for the Hayes River, Manitoba and the Bay du Nord River, Newfoundland.



- Completed the Ten-Year Monitoring Report for the Arctic Red River, Northwest Territories.
- Implemented annual report monitoring for all designated Canadian Heritage Rivers.

Communications:

The CHRS Secretariat is responsible for spreading the CHRS message of honouring our rivers throughout Canada and the world. Highlights for 2004-2005 include:

- Implemented the recommendations of a major study to improve the CHRS Communications and Marketing Program.
- Completed Year 1 of the new CHRS Communications Plan.
- Worked collaboratively with the Grand River Conservation Authority and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to host the Fourth Canadian River Heritage Conference at the University of Guelph.
- Supported Rivers Canada in the organization of the third Canadian Rivers Day. Produced a special commemorative Rivers Day poster that was circulated nationally.
- Produced draft version of CHRS Power Point presentation. Initial feedback was extremely positive.
- Awarded the 2007 Canadian River Heritage Conference to Rivers West Red River Corridor Inc. of Winnipeg.
- CHRS exhibit and displays highlighted at the Fourth Canadian River Heritage Conference and at several venues in Ontario.

- Continued to update the CHRS website.
- Produced commemorative plaques for the Cowichan, Clearwater, Tatshenshini and Missinaibi rivers for plaque unveiling ceremonies during the summer of 2005. Also planned a special ceremony to commemorate the designation of The Three Rivers.
- Prepared and distributed the 2003-2004 CHRS Annual Report, distributed nationally and internationally and electronically.
- Published 2005 Heritage Rivers Calendar in partnership with the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association (CRCA). Three thousand and sixty-five copies of the calendar were printed generating a profit of for the CRCA and excellent publicity for the CHRS.
- Produced a twentieth anniversary Heritage Rivers Quilt which was unveiled at the 4th Canadian River Heritage Conference. This quilt will be going on display with the CHRS travelling exhibit in 2006.
- Presented keynote address at ManoMin Watershed Conference (Rainy River), Fort Frances, Ontario, as well as representing the CHRS at several river recreation events (eg. Trailhead Show), academic institutions (eg. Queens University), and venues (eg. Heron Senior Centre, Canadian Museum of Nature) throughout the year.

Leadership

- Federal, provincial and territorial Ministers continue to affirm their government's commitment to the Heritage Rivers Program through the CHRS Charter.
- Completion of the eighth annual review and update of the strategic plan, including the review of trends and issues of strategic importance for the CHRS.
- Adjusted 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 CHRS.

Resourcing

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



Max Finkelstein

Smith Falls Lock 29a, on the Rideau Waterway.



The Canadian Heritage Rivers System

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 (2004-2005)

The Honourable Stéphane Dion
Minister of Environment
Government of Canada

The Honourable Andy Scott
Minister of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development
Government of Canada

The Honourable Tom Osborne
Minister of Environment and Conservation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Honourable Kerry Morash
Minister of Environment and Labour
Government of Nova Scotia

The Honourable Keith Ashfield
Minister of Natural Resources
Government of New Brunswick

The Honourable Philip Brown
Minister of Tourism
Government of Prince Edward Island

L'honorable Thomas J. Mulcair
Le ministre du Développement durable,
de l'Environnement et des Parcs
Gouvernement du Québec

The Honourable David Ramsay
Minister of Natural Resources
Government of Ontario

The Honourable Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation
Government of Manitoba

The Honourable David Forbes
Minister of Saskatchewan Environment
Government of Saskatchewan

The Honourable Gary Mar
Minister of Alberta Community Development
Government of Alberta

The Honourable Barry Penner
Minister of Environment
Government of British Columbia

The Honourable Brendan Bell
Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the Northwest Territories

The Honourable Olayuk Akesuk
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

The Honourable Peter Jenkins
Minister of Environment
Government of Yukon

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 is composed of one representative from Parks Canada, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), and each of the provincial and territorial governments. New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are each represented on the Board by a private citizen.

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 2005-2006 Chairperson will be John Kristensen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Alberta Community Development. ❁

CHRS Board of Directors 2003-2004

Gerry LePrieur 2004-2005 Chairperson
(Northwest Territories)

Calvin Yates (Newfoundland & Labrador)

David Boyce (Prince Edward island)

John Leduc (Nova Scotia)

Harry Collins (New Brunswick)

Alain Hebert (Quebec)

Adair Ireland-Smith (Ontario)

Gord Jones (Manitoba)

Ken Lozinsky (Saskatchewan)

John Kristensen (Alberta)

Lunn Kennedy (British Columbia)

Eric Val (Yukon)

David Monteith (Nunavut)

Nik Lopoukhine (Parks Canada)

Martha Johnson (Department
of Indian Affairs and Northern
Development)

CHRS Staff:

Don Gibson: National Manager

Max Finkelstein: Marketing and Publicity

Brian Grimsey: Senior Planner



A real Canadian on the Clearwater River, Alberta.

Max Finkelstein



Rivernews:

There were no new nominations to the CHRS in 2004-2005, but work continues towards the nomination of several of Canada's most significant rivers. The background study of Canada's biggest river, the mighty Mackenzie is well underway. Documenting the river's cultural heritage of the Deh Cho, Sahtu, Gwich'in, Inuvialuit, and Métis peoples who live along the river is the current focus of the work. Also up north, in Nunavut, work on the Coppermine River Management Plan is ongoing, with the goal of presenting the final management plan to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board in 2007. Progress also continues on the Heritage Rivers Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA), which will raise the profile of the CHRS in Nunavut.

Work is also progressing towards the nomination of another of Canada's biggest rivers, the Ottawa (eighth largest by volume and watershed size). The Quebec-Labrador Foundation has been contracted to work on the Background Study for the Ottawa River, with an emphasis on documenting the river's cultural heritage. The initiative is championed by a citizen's committee made up of representatives from Ontario and Quebec sides of the river, including First Nations. The study is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2005. Connected geographically to the Ottawa, interest in protecting Quebec's Dumoine River, the last undammed major tributary of the Ottawa, is also gaining momentum.

Out in Atlantic Canada, the St. John River Society is coordinating the Background Study for the St. John River. The study is focused on the river's cultural and recreational values, as the five dams on the river preclude its nomination based on natural values. However, significant natural features will be highlighted. Approximately 60 sites of National Historic Significance are found along the river valley, encompassing 10,000 years of history. The New Brunswick Government confirmed its commitment to the initiative and will assist the Society in its efforts to bring the St. John into the CHRS.

On the Island of Newfoundland, the Bay du Nord River has been nominated since 1992. The Government of Newfoundland began the preparation of a management plan for the Bay du Nord River as a Canadian Heritage River in the fall of 2004. The Newfoundland Government intends to table the Bay du Nord Management Strategy with the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board in August, 2005.

At the other end of the country, work has begun on the Adams River Background Study, expected to be completed in 2006. The Adams River is located in the interior of British Columbia, an area of Canada that does not yet have a river in the CHRS.

On the prairies, an initiative led by the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance is working to have the North Saskatchewan designation expanded downstream to the Saskatchewan border. A background study has been completed by the Alliance, and the group is currently developing an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the river. As the main route across the prairies to the Rockies, and part of the second largest Canadian watershed, the North Saskatchewan is clearly one of Canada's most important rivers. Work also continues on the Red River in Manitoba, and a nomination document is expected to be presented to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board in August 2005, with the goal of having the Red designated by June 2007. The designation would coincide with the 5th Canadian River Heritage Conference, also in June 2007, to be held on the banks of the Red River in Winnipeg. This conference is being hosted by Rivers West, Red River Corridor Inc., in collaboration with the Government of Manitoba and the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. More information on the conference will be available soon. Watch the web site for updates.

The Fourth Canadian River Heritage Conference was clearly a highlight of the year.

Ribbons of Life: Celebrating the Past, charting the future

Between June 6 and 9, 2004, hundreds of delegates gathered at the confluence of the Speed and Eramosa rivers, in the Grand River watershed, in Guelph, Ontario to contemplate the continuing importance of rivers as gathering points, natural and cultural resources, and sources of inspiration. The 4th Canadian River Heritage Conference was a great opportunity to meet, discuss and celebrate the sharing of river stories and learning how rivers shape our lives and societies. This conference also marked the tenth anniversary of the Grand as a Canadian Heritage River, (www.grandriver.ca) and the 20th anniversary of the Canadian Heritage River System itself (see www.chrs.ca).



The 4th
CANADIAN
RIVER HERITAGE
CONFERENCE

GUELPH, ONTARIO
June 6 - 9, 2004

With its focus rooted firmly in the multidisciplinary exploration of river heritage, science, and the arts, the conference gave all participants an exciting and illuminating voyage through the past, present and future of our relationship with these 'Ribbons of Life'.

The wide variety of speakers, workshops and field trips offered at this year's conference was highlighted by keynote addresses from truly outstanding advocates; Robert Kennedy Jr., founder and President of Waterkeeper Alliance, as well as author and botanical adventurer Wade Davis, Canada's river raconteur James Raffan, river conservationist extraordinaire Mark Angelo, and Roberta Jamieson, elected Chief of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory.

One hundred presentations by speakers from across North America, as well as New Zealand and Australia, covered wide-ranging topics from river recreation to assessing watershed health to rivers as sources of inspiration. A recurrent theme was a shift in focus from river and watershed management to working with people to manage the human impacts on watersheds. Presentations ranged from the need for strong grassroots support for living harmoniously with rivers to influencing provincial and national policies for protection of watersheds.

The conference also saw the release of singer/songwriter James Gordon's **The Song the River Sings**. James Gordon's songs of Canadian Heritage Rivers capture the magic, the mystery, the beauty, and also the stories of how these rivers have shaped our lives and our nation. James' CD is available through the GRCA. It can be ordered on-line at this link: <http://www.grandriver.ca/store/productdetails.cfm?id=51>

This conference is certain to be looked back upon as an historic event in the celebration and conservation of Canada's rivers.

On an additional celebratory note, In June, 2004, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority received the National River Conservation Award for its work to protect, restore and celebrate the Humber River. This award is given every ten years to the Public Agency that has made the greatest contribution to river conservation in Canada. The award was presented at the fourth Canadian River Heritage Conference.

Congratulations are also due to David Boyce, the CHRS Board member for Prince Edward Island, who was one of six recipients of the PEI Volunteer Recognition Awards. David has been a tremendous volunteer for many years, working to protect the environment and educating Islanders on the importance of protecting the environment. For six years, David nurtured the Three Rivers to Heritage River status, and during this process became the second private individual named to the CHRS Board.

At the other end of the country, congratulations are also due to the Fraser Basin Council, which was honoured in March 2005, with the "Watershed Peace Pathways Award for Sustainability Education" from IHTEC – the International Holistic Tourism Education Centre. The award recognizes the work of the FBC in advancing sustainability throughout the Basin with the hope that similar achievements will occur in every river basin around the world.



Breakfast with Robert Kennedy Jr. at the 4th Canadian River Heritage Conference.

Grand River Conservation Authority

New designations 2004-2005:

Three Rivers were designated to the program in 2004-2005, The Three Rivers in Prince Edward Island, the Missinaibi River in Ontario, and the Tatshenshini River in the Yukon.

The Three Rivers, Prince Edward Island (73 km)

The Three Rivers – Cardigan, Brudenell and Montague – wind through towns, villages and communities, draining into Cardigan Bay, known to the Mi'kmaq people as *Samkook* (sandy shore).

The designation ceremony for The Three Rivers took place on July 9, 2005, at Montague, Prince Edward Island. Many of the guests arrived by boat, dressed as the first French settlers, who came here to found one of the earliest European communities on Prince Edward Island in the early 1700s. Jean Pierre Roma himself, the leader of the first French settlers, was there (or was it the MC Robert Arsenaault?). Honouring the traditions of many cultures the guests were led from the docks by a Scottish piper to the platform where Mi'kmaq spiritual leader Pat Augustine led the group in prayer.

Throughout the ceremony, the waters of The Three Rivers flowed, as they have for centuries, past farms, fisheries and shipyards, linking all those who live along their banks to each other, to the past and to the future. The natural beauty of the Three Rivers has been nurtured and protected through careful development and community stewardship. Designation of The Three Rivers as a Canadian Heritage River will safeguard its rich history and pristine natural beauty for generations to come.

Missinaibi River, Ontario (501 km)

On June 12, 2005 the designation ceremony for the Missinaibi River took place in the small northern community of Mattice, on the shores of the majestic Missinaibi River.

The ceremony began on this beautiful sunny day with the firing of a musket, announcing the arrival of a procession of canoes paddled by modern-day voyageurs dressed in traditional costume of the men who travelled this 501 kilometre long wilderness river in the 17th & 18th centuries when it was the essential fur trade link between Lake Superior and Hudson Bay.

The platform party, which consisted of representatives of local government, Parks Canada, Ontario Parks, and Elders and Chiefs of Aboriginal communities with strong ancestral ties to the Missinaibi, were led to the speaking platform by a trio of French-Canadian musicians.



Thunderhouse Falls on the Missinaibi River, Ontario.

The speakers all spoke of their strong association with the river and how the Missinaibi was an important part of the cultural history of this nation. They also spoke of the continued association of the Ojibway and Cree peoples who still pursue their traditions along the river, and the continued importance of the river to those communities who have grown up beside it. Others told of the significance of the river as a place to seek out solitude, relaxation and adventure in our modern day world.

The designation of the Missinaibi River as a Canadian Heritage River celebrates the role of this river in Canada's history and society. This national designation will ensure that the Missinaibi will continue to flow into the future with her heritage features protected for generations to come.

Tatshenshini River, Yukon (45 km)

On Thursday, July 14th, 2005, under sunny skies framed by majestic mountains, the plaque designating the Tatshenshini River as a Canadian Heritage River was unveiled at a ceremony at Dalton Post (Shawshe), Yukon. The Däkwäkäda Dancers, in traditional beaded moose hide dresses and vests, from the Champagne & Aishihik First Nation, RCMP Cst. Dave Morin in red serge, and Kluane National Park Warden Rhonda

Markel led the members of the Official Party into the tent set up beside the river. Members of Däkwākāda Dancers sang 'O Canada' in Southern Tutchone, as a bald eagle soared overhead. As the ancient gopher skin robe covering the plaque was removed, the Official Party, the Honorable Larry Bagnall, P.C., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources (representing the Honorable Stéphane Dion, Minister of Environment), the Honorable Peter Jenkins, M.L.A., Minister of Environment, Government of Yukon, Chief James Allen, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Mr. Paul Birckel, Master of Ceremonies, and an audience of more than fifty, clapped in celebration.

The Tatshenshini River, known as Shäwshe Chú in the Southern Tutchone language, begins in northwestern British Columbia and flows nearly 200 kilometers through the traditional territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations into the Gulf of Alaska. The Tatshenshini is a traditional travel route with great cultural and spiritual significance to Southern Tutchone and Tlingit First Nations. Flowing down rugged canyons carved through coastal mountains, past glacier-filled valleys, iceberg dotted lakes and alpine tundra, the Tatshenshini is considered to be one of Canada's most scenic wilderness trips.



Sierra Club of Canada

Tatshenshini River.

The Tatshenshini is also one of Canada's most significant ecological areas, providing vital habitat for more than 50 species of mammals, including Yukon's densest population of grizzly bears. It is an important waterfowl migration route providing rich habitat for more than 40 species of birds, and provides critical spawning areas for salmon.

Monitoring Canadian Heritage Rivers

The focus of the CHRS is clearly shifting from designating new rivers into the program to better managing the rivers we have. Significant steps towards improving the integrity of CHRS rivers, repairing mistakes of the past, or avoiding these same mistakes in the future continue to be taken on many rivers in the CHRS. A sampling of initiatives that took place in 2004-05 includes the following.

- ▶ On the Main River in Newfoundland, work continued to have the corridor protected as the Main River Waterway Park, the first Waterway Park in the province. Official status as a provincial park is expected to take place in the fall of 2005. Monitoring of the endangered Newfoundland Pine Marten continued throughout the entire Main River watershed. A live trapping program shows the marten population to be currently stable and healthy. Repeated monitoring of the marten population will help ensure that one of the most important values for the Main River is maintained. As well, waterfowl were surveyed. Knowledge of the animals and birds using the Main River will increase our understanding of its ecological importance and help protect the values for which this river was designated as a Canadian Heritage River. (Lem Mayo; (709) 635-4532; lemmayo@gov.nl.ca)
- ▶ On the South Nahanni River, research projects on grizzly bears, bull trout and other key species are underway to better understand the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem, and to help determine the boundaries of an expanded Nahanni National Park Reserve. The possible opening of two mines within the South Nahanni watershed continues to raise concerns over water quality, wildlife and access. Parks Canada will monitor the situation closely.
- ▶ Concentrated and long-term use of the visitor facilities at Virginia Falls had resulted in degradation of the facilities and impact on the environment. To minimize this impact, a new portage boardwalk was built around Virginia Falls, along with a dock and two outhouses. "No camping" signs were erected at heavily used campsites downstream, to allow the shorelines to recover from heavy use. (Steve Catto; (867) 695-3151; steve.catto@pc.gc.ca)



- ▶ On the Kicking Horse River, water quality monitoring has shown that the upgraded wastewater treatment plant in Field, which started operation in June, 2004, has already had a positive impact on the ecological integrity of the river. However, the effects of wastewater effluent from the Emerald River, a major tributary, continues to affect the water quality of the Kicking Horse.
(Joanne Williams; (250) 347-6159; joanne.williams@pc.gc.ca)
 - ▶ On the Mattawa River, visitor use, both authorized and unauthorized, continues to impact on the integrity of the river. All Terrain Vehicles using trails within the boundaries of Mattawa River Provincial Park, vandalism along the river (especially graffiti and removal of portage signs), overuse of campsites and litter – these are issues that are impacting the Mattawa, issues that the Mattawa shares with other Canadian Heritage Rivers, and many other rivers in Canada. No amount of enforcement will solve these issues. It is a question of the human heart. Perhaps the Canoeists and Fisherman’s Code of Ethics, introduced on the Upper Restigouche in 2004, or the Wilderness Travel Planning Guide for the Tobetic Wilderness Area, (including canoe routes on Nova Scotia’s Shelburne River), which highlights low impact camping, are approaches that could be effective. For more information on these, contact Eric Hadley; (506) 453-8792; eric.hadley@gnb.ca or Leif Helmer; (902) 543-4685; helmerpl@gov.ns.ca.
 - ▶ Following the lead of the Thames River in southern Ontario, the Margaree-Lake Ainsley Canadian Heritage River Society commenced a digital inventory of local heritage sites in the watershed. On the natural heritage side, the society is undertaking an intensive inventory of streambed, stream-side vegetation and flow characteristics along a 14-kilometer section of the Northeast Branch. This will provide baseline data for tracking changes to the river.
(David William; (902) 563-3428)
 - ▶ Along the Thames River, the Clean Water Project handed out grants to enable hundreds of farmers in the watershed to make changes in their operations to improve water quality – restricting livestock access to watercourses, taking fragile lands out of production, repairing septic systems — living with rivers, not just using them.
(Cathy Quinlan; (519) 451-2800; quinlanc@thamesriver.on.ca)
 - ▶ The Bloodvein River is the common thread linking the cooperative work of the governments of Manitoba and Ontario, and First Nations, to jointly protect the cultural resources of the Bloodvein River, and to enhance protection of the watershed and river system. Working with Elders of the Pikangikum First Nation, a clearer understanding of the cultural values and significance of the Bloodvein River is being achieved, and important natural areas identified. This kind of cooperative work exemplifies the spirit of the CHRS.
(Cathy Hummelt; (204) 945-3697; chummelt@gov.mb.ca)
- For annual status reports on rivers designated to the CHRS, visit our website, www.chrs.ca, and click on “State of the Rivers”, or contact the Secretariat.



For More Information:

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