Introduction

This annual newsletter provides brief status reports on projects concerning the establishment and development of new parks, related heritage areas and other conservation initiatives in northern Canada. Aboriginal land claims remain a key factor in the establishment of parks and other protected areas.

The Yukon First Nations Umbrella Final Agreement (1993) has led, in turn, to seven First Nation Final Agreements: Champagne and Aishihik, Vuntut Gwitchin, Nacho Nyak Dun, Teslin Tlingit Council, Little Salmon/Carmacks, Selkirk and Tr’ondëk Hwech’in, leaving seven other First Nations to negotiate theirs. The development of a Yukon territorial park system and the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy must follow or complement the land claims process.

Within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, approximately 18% of the land is conserved by national parks and managed in a co-operative manner by Parks Canada and agencies created under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (1984) or otherwise by agreement with Inuvialuit.

The Gwich’in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992) and the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1993) address natural areas, wildlife and heritage conservation issues. Over the last four years, three national historic sites have been designated within these claim areas.

The Dogrib Comprehensive Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle was signed in January 2000. The Deh Cho First Nations are reviewing their draft Framework and Interim Management Agreements. The South Slave Métis are currently working with government toward an agreement-in-principle. Land claim and treaty land entitlement considerations for all areas where claims are not settled will strongly influence the timing of conservation proposals in those areas.

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (1993) provides a process for the establishment of national parks, territorial parks, and conservation areas in Nunavut. Negotiations are currently

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Aboriginal Land Claims

Editors’ Note: The following article was compiled from several government sources. It is included here to provide a brief introduction to aboriginal land claims for persons not familiar with them. It has appeared in previous editions of New Parks North and has proved to be one of the most popular articles. There are a few revisions this year to reflect changes affecting, primarily, Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada and Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada.

A Brief Overview

In Canada, the common law concept of aboriginal rights and title has been recognized by the courts. The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of aboriginal peoples have also been recognized and affirmed under section 35 (1) of the Constitution Act, 1982.

The evolution and development of the federal government’s land claims policy have been closely linked to court decisions. The first claims policy statement in 1973 was initiated by a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada (the 1973 Calder decision) which acknowledged the existence of aboriginal title in Canadian law. In order to address uncertainties created by the decision, the federal government announced its intention to negotiate claim settlements. As the policy developed, claims were divided into two types:

- comprehensive claims – based on the concept of continuing aboriginal rights and title that have not been dealt with by treaty or other legal means; and
- specific claims – arising from alleged non-fulfillment of Indian treaties and other lawful obligations, or the improper administration of lands and other assets under the Indian Act or formal agreements.

In recent years, an unnamed third category of claims has developed to deal with aboriginal grievances that fall within the spirit of the comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

Comprehensive Claims

The primary purpose of comprehensive claims settlements is to conclude agreements with aboriginal groups that will resolve the legal ambiguities associated with the common law concept of aboriginal rights. The objective is to negotiate modern treaties which provide clear, certain, and long-lasting definition of rights to lands and resources. Negotiated comprehensive claim settlements provide for certainty for governments and third parties in exchange for a clearly defined package of rights and benefits for the aboriginal beneficiaries codified in constitutionally-protected settlement agreements.

Comprehensive claim agreements define a wide range of rights and benefits to be exercised and enjoyed by claimant groups. These may include full ownership of certain lands, guaranteed wildlife harvesting rights, participation in land and resource management throughout the settlement area, financial transfers, resource revenue-sharing and economic development measures.

If a national park is established in a settlement area through the claim process, the claimant group continues to exercise its traditional harvesting activities within this protected area. As well, a management board may be established, with representation from the aboriginal community and government, to advise the Minister on the management of the national park. Finally, the land claim agreement sets out what economic opportunities associated with the national park will be enjoyed by the claimant group. These may include employment provisions and contracting opportunities.

Significant amendments to the federal comprehensive claims policy were announced in December 1986, following an extensive period of consultation with aboriginal peoples. Key changes to the policy included the development of alternatives to blanket extinguishment of aboriginal rights, as well as provision for the inclusion in settlement agreements of offshore wildlife harvesting rights, resource revenue-sharing and aboriginal participation in environmental decision-making. The 1986 policy...
also provides for the establishment of interim measures to protect aboriginal interests during negotiations, and the negotiation of implementation plans to accompany final agreements.

The 1997 Supreme Court of Canada decision in Delgamuukw has initiated calls from within aboriginal communities to once again review the comprehensive claims policy. The Delgamuukw decision is the first comprehensive treatment by the Supreme Court of Canada of aboriginal title.

Self-government negotiations may take place parallel to, or at the same table as, the comprehensive claims negotiations. The federal government is prepared to consider constitutional protection of certain aspects of self-government where the parties to the agreement concur. Self-government must be negotiated in keeping with the 1995 Framework for the Implementation of the Inherent Right and the Negotiations of Self-Government policy.

**Specific Claims and Treaty Land Entitlement**

Specific claims relate to the fulfillment of treaties and to the federal government’s administration of Indian reserve lands, band funds and other assets. The government’s primary objective with respect to specific claims is to discharge its lawful obligations to First Nations.

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) is a large category of claims that relate primarily to a group of treaties that were signed with First Nations, mainly in the prairie provinces. Not all these First Nations received the full amount of land promised. Claims from First Nations for outstanding entitlements are categorized as TLE claims and are handled separately from other specific claims.

Parks Canada is currently involved in TLE discussions that concern Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada. The Salt River First Nation indicated its wish to select land within Wood Buffalo as part of its TLE negotiations. The Minister of Canadian Heritage agreed to consider this request in 1997. Salt River First Nation has now split into two bands – Salt River First Nation and Smith’s Landing First Nation. The two bands are negotiating separately with Canada for their respective TLEs. The Minister and Smith’s Landing First Nation signed an agreement on March 20, 2000, that will result in the excision of three parcels of land totalling 9.73 km² from Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada for the creation of Indian Reserves. Negotiations with Salt River First Nation for four parcels of land totalling 13.65 km² from the National Park are nearing completion.

**Other Claims**

The federal government is reaching or negotiating settlement of a number of other aboriginal grievances, which have sometimes been referred to as claims of a third kind. These grievances fall within the spirit of the comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

**Deh Cho**

After the failure of the Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement in 1990, the Deh Cho First Nations (DCFN) requested the establishment of a Deh Cho Territory. They also declared a moratorium on all land use activities until Canada agreed to recognize Aboriginal title throughout their traditional territory. In 1998, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development appointed a ministerial envoy with a mandate to seek common ground between the DCFN and Canada. A two-stage approach to negotiations was recommended. The first stage would include a framework, interim measures agreements, and interim land withdrawals, and the second would include negotiations of an agreement-in-principle (AIP) and final agreement.

Negotiations during 2000 resulted in a draft Framework Agreement and a draft Interim Measures Agreement. These are undergoing final review prior to a ratification process. The Framework Agreement sets out the scope, process, topics and parameters for negotiation of an AIP and a final agreement. The Interim Measures Agreement provides for participation of the DCFN in the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management regime; a regional land use planning process that will facilitate resource development; an interim management arrangement for Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada; and interim land withdrawal and the negotiation of a resource development agreement.

Deh Cho First Nations and Parks Canada formed the Nahanni Dehé Consensus Team; a team of six people consisting of three appointees by Deh Cho and three by Parks Canada. They are now reviewing the Ecological Integrity Statement and the Park Management Plan for Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada. Following this, the team may make recommendations to the Deh Cho Process main table on interim management arrangements for Nahanni.

**South Slave Métis**

One such proposal now under negotiation involves the Métis of the South Slave Region of the NWT. When the Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement was rejected by the aboriginal peoples in 1990, the
The federal government decided to enter into regional claims in the Mackenzie Valley. However, in the South Slave District, Dene First Nations originally opted to seek fulfillment of their Treaty 8 and Treaty 11 entitlements. This left some Métis in this area without a vehicle to press for their concerns. A Framework Agreement was signed in August 1996 that outlines a two-stage negotiation process – land and resources and, after the signing of an agreement-in-principle (AIP), negotiation of self-government issues.

Initiatives Spanning Two or More Claim Areas

Government of Canada – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Marine Protected Areas and the Canadian Arctic

Canada’s Oceans Act was passed in January 1997. As defined under the Act, a Marine Protected Area (MPA) is an area of sea that has been designated for special protection for one or more purposes. MPAs can be established to conserve and protect the following:
- commercial and noncommercial fishery resources, including marine mammals, and their habitats;
- endangered or threatened species and their habitats;
- unique habitats;
- marine areas of high biodiversity or biological productivity; and
- any other marine resource or habitat as is necessary.

The Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments, affected aboriginal organizations, land claims agreement bodies, and coastal communities across Canada are in the process of working together to develop Canada’s Oceans Strategy (COS) for the management of Canada’s three oceans. The national strategy will be based on the principles of integrated management, sustainable development and the precautionary approach (which means to err on the side of caution). Under the Act, there are three complementary programs to be developed in support of COS including Integrated Management, Marine Protected Areas, and Marine Environmental Quality. Ten MPA projects are currently in progress or under consideration in Canada, four in the west and six in the east.

Although MPAs are generally defined under the Canada Oceans Act, the Act was designed to encourage local participation in defining the specific boundaries and management plans for each MPA according to its purpose, location and nature. A strong emphasis is placed on involving key parties in the beginning stages so that the priorities and goals of aboriginal organizations, communities and stakeholders affected are considered. The Oceans Act also provides the opportunity for creating an MPA process that will be flexible at all stages of development. MPAs may be seasonal, year-round or permanent, and may not necessarily be in place forever, depending on the reason for designation.

MPA planning is done within the context of integrated management for marine areas. A national MPA planning framework has been developed that serves as a guide for advancing “areas of interest” through assessment and evaluation stages to establishment and management. One of the fundamental principles of MPA planning is adaptive management, which presents the opportunity of “learning by doing.” Through the MPA planning process, participants gain experience in integrated management planning, which is designed to take into account the interests and needs of all participants. Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is currently working with a number of land claim organizations and stakeholders to make marine protection a reality in the Arctic Ocean.

An MPA in the Arctic will provide an opportunity to focus on integrated ocean planning and management within existing co-management frameworks that have been established under northern land claim agreements. Co-operation between DFO, aboriginal organizations, coastal and northern communities, other government agencies, industry, and stakeholders will serve to strengthen existing relationships and create new ones while working together toward ocean conservation. At the same time, this process will stimulate local involvement and responsibility, enhance opportunities for monitoring and guardianship of community areas, and improve decision making. An MPA planning process can help to ensure that the sites chosen represent local, regional and national needs and values.

MPA planning can also complement existing legislation and/or management plans that have been developed. There are currently three legislative tools for
protecting marine areas in the North; Marine and National Wildlife Areas under the Canada Wildlife Act and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, National Marine Conservation Areas under the proposed Marine Conservation Areas Act (currently under the Canada National Parks Act) and Marine Protected Areas under the Oceans Act. Environment Canada, Parks Canada and DFO do not work in isolation. These agencies plan for areas of marine protection together.

Over the past year, DFO’s Oceans Sector has been working on a variety of projects. Information is available for educational purposes and to help people understand the Oceans Act and what its programs and initiatives are.

If you would like more information, dive into our web site at www.oceansconservation.com.

Parks Canada – National Historic Sites

Northern Métis Commemorative Projects

Two submissions to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) were tabled at the November 1999 meeting:

- a summary of Picking up the Threads: Métis History in the North which outlined the main themes, events, places and individuals associated with that history and recommendations for future research and commemorations; and
- a biography of François Beaulieu II, a founding father who was designated as a person of national historic significance in May 2000.

Beaulieu is the first Métis of the NWT to be recognized and will be commemorated by a plaque in the near future, most probably at Salt River where he and his family lived for many generations. The site of Beaulieu’s original homestead and burial is being investigated in collaboration with the Salt River First Nation and the Fort Smith Métis local.

A paper on Charles Camsell (1876-1958) was tabled at the November 2000 HSMBC meeting. Camsell, born at Fort Liard, was of Métis heritage although he did not identify as such, possibly due to the prejudices and other social pressures of the time. He was a geologist with the Geological Survey of Canada, became Deputy Minister of Mines in 1920, and held other important positions until his retirement in 1946. Camsell’s identification with his Eurocanadian heritage illustrates the fact that a Métis or Aboriginal background was a liability for a successful career in Canada well into the 20th century.

A research project is currently underway to develop a number of biographies and theme papers on representative and individual Métis women. This will be followed by the preparation of an HSMBC paper for the fall 2001 meeting. A biography of Marie Fisher Gaudet and daughter Bella of Fort Good Hope has already been completed. Oral histories and further research will be carried out on Catherine Beaulieu Bouvier of Fort Providence, Sarah Stewart Simon of Fort McPherson, Marie Beaulieu Mercredi of Fort Resolution, Maryanne Jewell (Redford) Gratrix of Fort Smith, a number of women who were Grey Nuns, and others. For this project, Parks Canada is working with Métis locals who are actively supporting the project.
Papers on François Beaulieu II and Marie Fisher Gaudet were presented at the Rupert’s Land Colloquium in Vancouver, Washington in June 2000. A chapter on Métis History in the North, based on *Picking up the Threads*, will be included in *Métis Legacy*, a Métis Millennium publication project of the Louis Riel Institute of Manitoba and the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Saskatchewan.

Future projects, depending on funding under the New Sites Initiatives program and other sources to be identified by Métis Heritage, include the writing of the last chapter of *Picking up the Threads* on the post-1950 period of Métis history in the North, to be followed by publication. There are also plans for a second edition of *Our Métis Heritage* published in 1976.

**Canadian Heritage Rivers**

There are currently 37 rivers in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS), totalling over 9,000 river km. Twenty-eight have been formally designated as Canadian Heritage Rivers. Eight of the nine Canadian Heritage Rivers are designated in the North. Only one, the 45 km section of the Tatshenshini in the Yukon, is nominated.

**Yukon**

Four Canadian Heritage Rivers are in the Yukon: the Alsek, the Bonnet Plume, the Yukon section to the Tatshenshini, and the Thirty-Mile Section of the Yukon River.

**Alsek River**

Designated in 1986, the 300 km Alsek flows through Kluane National Park Reserve of Canada, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Kluane is bordered by Wrangell-St. Elias National Park in Alaska, the Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park in northern British Columbia, and the Asi Keyi Special Management Area to the north, and forms a key part of the largest contiguous protected area in the world. The Alsek flows through the highest mountains in Canada, fed by the world’s largest mountain glaciers. Its upper reaches provide prime habitat for grizzly bear, Dall’s sheep and other wildlife. Its wild beauty and rapids beckon adventurous river travellers. Turnback Canyon is renowned as being one of the most daunting stretches of whitewater in the world.

**Bonnet Plume River**

Flowing out of the Wernecke Mountains in the central Yukon, the Bonnet Plume cuts through unglaciated mountain peaks and canyons exposing veins of silver and zinc. This arctic landscape abounds with woodland caribou and grizzly bear dens; its habitat is home to a host of rare plants. The valley of the Bonnet Plume was a traditional hunting and travel area for Gwich’in and represents their heritage in its natural state. The remote and little travelled Bonnet Plume, designated in 1998, provides one of the best wilderness adventures to be found in Canada. The Bonnet Plume is the only northern river in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) to date that includes its entire watershed (an area of approximately 12,000 km²) in its management area. The *Wilderness Tourism Licensing Act 1998* 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, fish populations, and classification of vegetation and identification of rare plants is being carried out in the watershed. This work will ensure that data is available to complete the five-year plan review.

**Tatshenshini River (Yukon section)**

The Tatshenshini River is an internationally renowned river that cuts through the spectacular coastal mountains on its way from the Yukon through British Columbia to the Alaskan coast. The Minister of Canadian Heritage and the Minister of Renewable Resources, Yukon Government, approved the nomination of the Tatshenshini in 1998.

The River supports an unusually large population of grizzly bears. Other big game includes Dall’s sheep, woodland caribou and moose. Peregrine falcons, bald and golden eagles, and goshawks soar overhead. The Tatshenshini is also an important salmon spawning river, supporting the traditional harvests of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation, and those of the grizzly bear.

Today, the Tatshenshini is considered to be one of the top river trips in the world for rafters and kayakers.

**The Thirty-Mile Section of the Yukon River**

This section of the Yukon River was designated in 1991. Infamous for its shifting sandbars that were the demise of many a paddlewheeler, the Thirty-Mile Section is also a traditional hunting and fishing ground for Ta’an Kwach’an. The Ta’an Kwach’an First Nation monitor river use, interact with visitors, maintain campsites, and assist river travellers in emergencies.

The *Wilderness Tourism Licensing Act 1998* ensures the uncrowded and pristine nature of the Thirty-Mile Section will remain. A video documentary on the Yukon River was aired in early 2001 on the Discovery Channel.
Northwest Territories

Two designated Canadian Heritage Rivers are in the NWT: the Arctic Red and the South Nahanni.

Arctic Red River (Tsiigehnjik)

The rich valley of the Arctic Red River, designated in 1993, is the traditional hunting area for Gwich’ya Gwich’in. Its valley, framed by high mountains, provides rich habitat for Dall’s sheep, caribou, grizzly bear and peregrine falcons. There are stands of 700 year old white spruce and significant archaeological and cultural resources along the Arctic Red River. At its confluence with the Mackenzie is the community of Tsiigehtchic.

The land adjacent to the whole length of the Arctic Red has been identified as a Special Management Area in the NWT Protected Area Strategy (PAS) and the Gwich’in Land Use Plan. Within the framework of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System and the PAS, additional protection of the Arctic Red River area will likely progress over the next several years.

South Nahanni River

The South Nahanni, designated in 1987, is undoubtedly the best known of northern rivers, and the most popular destination for river trippers heading north. The centrepiece of Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada, its deep canyons, spectacular Virginia Falls, relatively easy downstream paddling, and the fact that only one portage is required, make the South Nahanni a very popular destination.

Visitation to the South Nahanni is high for a northern river. In 1999, a total of 576 travelled the river, in addition to over 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.

The Deh Cho First Nations (DCFN) have begun negotiations with the Government of Canada to work toward an Interim Measures Agreement. DCFN has proposed that the entire South Nahanni River watershed be protected (also see articles on page 8 and 11).

Nunavut

Three rivers are designated in Nunavut: the Kazan, Soper and Thelon. The Coppermine River is in the first stages of the designation process.

Coppermine River

Background studies on the Coppermine River were undertaken in 2000. This is the first step in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System designation process. If the background studies demonstrate nationally significant heritage values, the next step will be the preparation of a nomination document. The Coppermine was featured in a documentary series on rivers aired on the Discovery Channel in early 2001.

Kazan River

The Kazan River flows for 850 km northwards from Kasba Lake near the northern border of Saskatchewan/Manitoba to the south shore of Baker Lake. This 50,000 km² drainage basin, designated in 1990, lies in the heart of the mainland portion of Nunavut. The upper reaches of the River traverse the boreal forest and the 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 making a comeback 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, making the Kazan River one of the most popular wilderness canoe trips in the North.

Most prominent of the wildlife associated with the river corridor are the caribou of the Qamanirjuaq herd and, to a lesser extent, the Beverly herd. On their annual migration route, the Kazan lies just to the west of one of the major calving areas of these herds. Other notable species include the muskox and 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 Inuit. Caribou Inuit adapted their lifestyle to the annual caribou migration and took advantage of the River’s natural barrier. This barrier enabled large numbers of caribou to be harvested by Inuit hunters at preferred crossing sites. It is here that Fall Caribou Crossing National Historic Site was established. The Site 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.

In 1999/00, the Government of Nunavut completed a review of the original Management Plan for the Kazan. The review was undertaken to reaffirm community and regional support and new goals were established. Government of Nunavut, in partnership with the community and region, can work toward these goals to ensure the River continues to represent its community and nomination values.

Soper River (Kuujuaq)

The Soper River (“big river”) winds its way from the highlands of the Meta Incognita Peninsula to Soper Lake and then mixes fresh tundra water with the salt waters...
of Pleasant Inlet along the south coast of Baffin Island, creating tides of over 10.6 metres. The valley's microclimate has created a landscape rich with willow, sedges, heathers and berries not found elsewhere in the Arctic Islands. In 1999/00, 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, influenced by varied climate conditions in their 70 years.

The River, designated in 1992, runs through Katannilik Territorial Park, a 1,270 km² destination park in South Baffin (also see article on page 33). The valley creates a thermal oasis that often enjoys temperatures well above the norm. 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.

A 1999 Economic Impact Study found that since the establishment of Katannilik Park in 1993, tourism has increased fivefold and is expected to continue growing as park development occurs. 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 toward longer trips that enable visitors to better appreciate the unique environment through hikes into the valley and into the hills above.

The Soper River is featured in a new documentary video entitled Community Reflections on Canadian Heritage Rivers, which examines the experiences of people living on five Canadian Heritage Rivers. Copies of the video are available from the Canadian Heritage Rivers System Secretariat, 4th Floor, Jules Leger Building North, 25 Eddy Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M5.

**Thelon River (NWT/Nunavut)**

Designated in 1990, the Thelon River flows from the Mackenzie District of the NWT northeast of Great Slave Lake, through the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary, into Beverly, Aberdeen and Schultz Lakes and finally into Baker Lake (the geographic centre of Canada). The River lies in the heart of the mainland portion of Nunavut and is noteworthy for its pristine, undisturbed character. The corridor straddles the boundary between the NWT and Nunavut and crosses the boreal forest 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 Inuit and Dene. From the earliest inhabitants of the region, the corridor has been an important homeland and still provides a wealth of resources to sustain the people hunting and fishing along its banks.

It was only at the turn of the 20th century that the Thelon River became the focus as an area of tremendous natural history and the subject of northern conservation efforts, reflected today in the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary. Established in 1927, the 52,000 km² Sanctuary is one of the largest and most remote protected areas in Canada. This 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 Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou, the second largest caribou herd in the world, as well as barrens grizzly, moose, and muskoxen. As well, the Thelon River and Sanctuary boast an incredible diversity of bird life, from peregrine and gyrfalcon, to bald and golden eagles, and a number of other raptors.

In 1999/00, the Government of Nunavut, Kivalliq Inuit Association, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. met to finalize a management plan for the Sanctuary in keeping with the obligations under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. The plan recommends, among other things, the establishment of a co-management Advisory Committee made up of government and community representatives to consider such things as special management areas outside the Sanctuary, use and access, and other management and planning recommendations.

The Government of Nunavut recently 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 affirm that the goals still reflected those of the Government of Nunavut and the community of Baker Lake.

**NWT Protected Areas Strategy**

The NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) is a guide for creating a system of protected areas throughout the NWT. It provides communities with a tool to identify and establish protected areas of natural and cultural importance.

The implementation of the PAS has been underway for just over a year. Based on the recommendations from the participants at the First Annual Implementation Forum, the Protected Areas Implementation Advisory Committee was formed. Overseen by the Committee, the territorial and federal governments, in partnership with First Nations, industry and
environmental groups, are responsible for implementation of the PAS.

Two sites are currently being advanced through the PAS. The Deh Cho First Nations are seeking protection of their traditional lands in the Edéhzhíe (Mills Lake/Horn Plateau) area. The First Nations are currently preparing a proposal to be submitted to the Canadian Wildlife Service for consideration of these lands as a protected area, which is step three of the eight step PAS process (also see articles on page 10 and 26). The community of Deline is seeking to upgrade the designation of Sahyoue and Edacho from a national historic site to a national historic park, in order to provide surface and subsurface protection of these lands (also see articles on page 10 and 24).

In fulfilling the commitments in the PAS Action Plan, the territorial and federal governments have completed or are currently undertaking the following initiatives:

- Potential new mechanisms for protected area designations have been assessed.
- A Protected Areas Secretariat in the Department of Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development has been established.
- Landscape units within ecoregions have been mapped and the degree to which these are represented by existing protected areas has been assessed.
- Guidelines for resource assessments, interim protection, and third party compensation are being developed.
- Work continues with First Nations to advance possible new candidate protected areas.

**Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute**

**Gwich’in Traditional Knowledge Policy**

The Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI), working with the former Gwich’in Tribal Council (GTC) implementation co-ordinator, drafted a Gwich’in Traditional Knowledge Policy in 2000 in consultation with Gwich’in communities, organizations, co-management boards and government. This draft is currently being reviewed by the GTC Board. Once approved, the Policy will be available to the public and will guide all traditional knowledge research carried out in the Gwich’in Settlement Region, both in the NWT and Yukon.

**Peel River Archaeological Survey**

A month of ethno-archaeological research was carried out this summer in the Peel River Plateau area by the Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute and Teet’it Gwich’in Council in partnership with the University of Alberta. Support for the project was provided by Parks Canada, the

Initiatives Spanning Two or More Claim Areas
Aurora Research Institute, the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy, Gwich’in Tribal Council, Teet’it Gwich’in Renewable Resource Council, Gwich’in Renewable Resource Board, Fort McPherson Hamlet, Anglican Church, T’l’oondih Healing Society and Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

The Peel Plateau was traditionally used by Teet’it Gwich’in, now living primarily in Fort McPherson. Archaeologically speaking, the area is unknown. To begin an inventory of the area, a one week helicopter survey was carried out east of the Richardson Mountains where several new sites were identified. The helicopter survey was followed by a two-week river survey between Fort McPherson and the Caribou River and was further followed by a week of test excavations of a fur trade site in the community of Fort McPherson that had been disturbed in the past year. At the completion of the project, a photo exhibit was created for display at the summer 2000 Midway Festival. Information collected during this project will now be used to feed into the process of enhancing and identifying new national historic sites and protected areas.

**Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – NWT Chapter**

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Territories Chapter (CPAWS-NWT) is a member of the national CPAWS organization. Formed in 1996, CPAWS-NWT is dedicated to wilderness protection, particularly through the establishment of protected areas. In the past year, CPAWS-NWT has established two offices, one in Yellowknife and one in Fort Simpson.

CPAWS-NWT is working with communities, aboriginal organizations, governments, and others to establish an effective network of protected areas in the NWT. Specific candidate protected areas CPAWS-NWT is working on include Sahyoue and Edacho in the Sahtu Settlement Region, and Edézhie and the Greater Nahanni Region in the Deh Cho.

**Sahyoue and Edacho**

CPAWS-NWT has been working closely with the community of Délı̨nę toward the protection of Sahyoue (Grizzly Bear Mountain) and Edacho (Scented Grass Hills), peninsulas on Great Bear Lake.

This land is intimately connected with Sahtu Dene tradition and culture. Its protection would ensure that the oral tradition of land-based stories, which make up much of the culture and history of Sahtu Dene, is maintained and continued.

These are also pristine, nationally significant landscapes. With a combined area of 5,587 km², these wilderness areas are characterized by extensive boreal forests, numerous small ponds, wildlife populations of grizzly and black bear, wolf, caribou, moose, beaver, marten, mink and waterfowl, and are located along fish migration routes and spawning grounds.

In 1998, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada declared Sahyoue and Edacho as cultural landscapes of national significance. The Board recommended that work begin toward ensuring long-term protection for the areas (also see article on page 24). In August 1999, the areas were established as a national historic site, a designation that does not ensure long-term surface and subsurface protection. The community of Délı̨nę then decided to use the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) process to pursue long-term protection for the areas.

Materials documenting the values of Sahyoue and Edacho and containing information relating to all aspects of protection were compiled in the spring of 2000. The community of Délı̨nę submitted the material as part of a formal proposal to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, requesting that the department partner with the community in working toward permanent protection of the Sahyoue and Edacho National Historic Site. This request resulted in a meeting in Ottawa between a delegation from Délı̨nę and the Minister to discuss the proposal. The meeting was positive and productive, and a working group has been formed to continue the work of protecting Sahyoue and Edacho.

**Edézhie**

Edézhie is the traditional Slavey name given to the area comprised of Mills Lake, Horn River, Willowlake River and Horn Plateau. The Deh Gah Got’ie Kúé (Fort Providence), Liidlii Kúé (Fort Simpson), Tthek’êhdêli (Jean Marie River) and Pehdzéh Kí (Wrigley) First Nations are working toward the protection of this site from industrial development through the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS).

Edézhie is an important traditional harvesting area, as well as a cultural and spiritual gathering place for Deh Cho Dene. The candidate protected area is located northwest of Fort Providence, north of the Deh Cho (Mackenzie) River and is approximately 24,500 km² with large lakes, wetlands and important waterfowl areas. It hosts a bounty of wildlife including fish, beaver, lynx, moose, migratory birds, and woodland caribou.

Protection for the area began as two separate initiatives. Liidlii Kúé First Nations (Fort Simpson) initiated a study to advance the
Horn Plateau (including Willowlake River) through the PAS for the benefit of all the Deh Cho First Nations. This site is a shared use area. Deh Gah Got’ie Dene First Nations (Fort Providence) hosted several workshops to document information on the Mills Lake area (including the Horn River) and advance it as a candidate protected area through the PAS. The communities of Fort Providence, Fort Simpson, Jean Marie River and Wrigley then met to formally link and advance these candidate protected areas through the PAS as one site, Edéhzhíe.

There are still many steps remaining to formally protect Edéhzhíe. Regional support is being sought and a sponsoring agency, such as the Canadian Wildlife Service, will be needed to formally partner with the communities and sponsor an interim land withdrawal for the area (also see article on page 26).

Greater Nahanni Region
The Greater Nahanni Region includes Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada, the South Nahanni watershed, the Nahanni Karst and the Ram Plateau. Located in the Mackenzie Mountains in the southwest corner of the NWT, the Greater Nahanni Region is a vast wilderness area of approximately 40,000 km², dominated by rugged mountains, hot sulphur springs, turbulent rivers and abundant wildlife.

The ecological integrity of the Region is currently under increasing threat from mining and oil and gas activity, including seismic work, new activity at two mine sites, and the staking of mineral claims.

CPAWS-NWT is working to maintain the wilderness values of the area by supporting protection efforts in the Region. Proposals for protection include expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada into the Nahanni Karst and two other areas, and the Deh Cho First Nations proposal to protect the South Nahanni watershed.

Government of Canada – Parks Canada – National Parks

Wolf Lake (Gooch Aa)
Wolf Lake is located in the southern Yukon, about 200 km east of Whitehorse, near the community of Teslin. The area surrounding Wolf Lake includes rugged mountains along both sides of the Continental Divide north of the Yukon/British Columbia border, and the headwaters of the Liard, Morley and Wolf Rivers. A great variety of vegetation communities occur, in part because of the difference in elevation (up to 2,100 metres). Treeless tundra is common, along with forested lowlands and valleys. Outstanding features in the area include an important winter range for the Wolf Lake herd of woodland caribou; the Wolf River, a highly productive habitat for moose and beaver; a rich population of large predators, fish and birds; and remnant populations of mountain goats and Stone’s sheep. The historical stability of the Wolf Lake predator-prey ecosystem, particularly wolves and caribou, is of great scientific interest.

In early 1998, Parks Canada held initial discussions with the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Teslin Renewable Resources Council concerning a possible feasibility study for a new national park in the area. In December 1998, the Yukon Government released its Protected Areas Strategy, which identified the Wolf Lake (Gooch Aa) area as one of three priority areas for protected areas planning in the Yukon (also see articles on page 12 and 15).

Discussions and consultations are ongoing in Teslin to determine if there is local support for a park feasibility study, to be undertaken by a variety of partners and led by Parks Canada. In September 1999, four residents of Teslin visited Haines Junction to learn more about Kluane National Park and Park Reserve of Canada and the relationship between that National Park/Reserve and the community. At a public open house, held in early 2000, more was learned about Vuntut National Park of Canada and how the people of Old Crow benefit from the Park; several residents of Old Crow made presentations in Teslin.

At the request of the Teslin Renewable Resources Council, the Yukon Bureau of Statistics undertook a comprehensive community survey to investigate local attitudes and values toward renewable resource management issues and protected areas; the results of which were jointly released in May 2000.

The survey concluded that parks will generate both strong support and opposition. The concept of a park is seen as quite close to the core values of the community. However, some residents feel that a park is not consistent with traditional activities. Many respondents stated that they would like more information on the establishment and management of a park.
If the Teslin Tlingit Council, the Teslin Renewable Resources Council and the Yukon Government agree, the park feasibility study could begin in 2001.

**Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Yukon Chapter**

Progress on new park establishment in the Yukon slowed in 2000 due to a territorial election, yet the new government reaffirmed a commitment to implementing the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy (YPAS). The highlight of the year was the federal government’s interim protection of the new Asi Keyi Natural Environment Park. This new 3,000 km² protected area lies north of Kluane National Park Reserve of Canada, within the Wrangell-St. Elias World Heritage Site. Asi Keyi, noted for its important wildlife habitat and unusual ecological features, was created as part of the pending land claim agreements with the Kluane and White River First Nations (also see articles on page 15). This brings the lands protected in the Yukon close to 11% of the territory and underscores the pivotal role First Nations continue to play in conservation efforts.

The approach to interim protection for candidate protected areas is a challenge in many jurisdictions. Both of the territorial parks created late in 1999 contained legal mining claims that were staked after park planning commenced. In the Fishing Branch Wilderness Preserve, settlement was reached with a British Columbia mining company to buy several mining claims in the new 5,400 km² park (also see article on page 16). The Nature Conservancy of Canada and Vuntut Gwitchin negotiated the purchase of the claims. CPAWS-Yukon assisted the process by encouraging governments to support phasing out the claims and endorsing private land trust involvement in settling third party interests in the park. Close to ten years ago, the Nature Conservancy brokered an arrangement with the oil industry in the creation of Vuntut National Park, but their involvement in Fishing Branch was a first for a new Yukon territorial park.

The federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs has made a commitment to negotiate a solution to mining exploration in the new Tombstone Natural Environment Park (also see article on page 16). The Yukon and federal governments, and the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Nation are now involved in ongoing discussions to solve this land use issue and ensure the future ecological integrity of the Park.

The Endangered Spaces Campaign ended in 2000, but work continued in collaboration with World Wildlife Fund Canada toward completion of a network of protected areas. At the end of the ten-year Campaign, Yukon compared favourably with many other jurisdictions in the total amount of land protected. Yukon’s rate of progress since 1989, however, was just below the national average. Future progress toward completing a representative network of protected areas depends on both conservation provisions in claims agreements and implementation of the public YPAS process (also see article on page 15).

During 2000, CPAWS-Yukon completed the third field season of research in the Wolf Lake ecosystem, and also carried out two exploratory trips for community representatives and government staff. Parks Canada proposed a national park feasibility study for Wolf Lake two years ago and community surveys were undertaken by the Teslin Renewable Resources Council to assess community support for the initiative (also see article on page 11). A regional land use planning commission has been appointed and is expected to start work in the spring of 2001. The commission mandate includes consideration of protected areas.

In response to increasing forestry and oil and gas development interests in the southeast Yukon, CPAWS-Yukon completed a comprehensive regional mapping project to identify areas of high conservation value in the region. The strategy includes proposals for new core protected areas and a number of key riparian corridors and wildlife habitat linkages. The report will be available to all those participating in land and forest management planning in the southeast Yukon.

In the northern part of the Yellowstone to Yukon region, a background report and preliminary conservation proposal on the Wind, Snake and Bonnet Plume Rivers was produced. The report is based on three years of co-operative research work with the Teet’it Gwich’in and Nacho Nyak Dun First Nations, along with the two Renewable Resource Councils.

**Government of Yukon – Tourism – Heritage Branch**

**Introduction**

The Heritage Branch of Tourism Yukon is responsible for implementation of the Yukon Historic Resources Act (HRA), administering federal archaeological sites regulations under the Yukon Act, and carrying out Yukon Government obligations outlined in Chapter 13 of the Council of Yukon First Nations Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA), the seven completed Yukon First Nation Final Agreements and the transboundary...
(Teet’it) *Gwich’in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.*

The HRA was designed to meet and complement the provisions of the UFA. These two documents together have provided for the foundation of the Yukon Heritage Resources Board (YHRB). The YHRB has an equal number of appointments from the Yukon Government and the Council of Yukon First Nations, and makes recommendations on heritage matters to the Minister responsible for Heritage and to Yukon First Nations. Heritage Branch is an ex-officio member of the Board.

The HRA also provides the framework for municipalities to manage their own heritage resources. The Heritage Branch is an ex-officio member of the City of Whitehorse Heritage Advisory Committee, established pursuant to the HRA.

Because they occur within the traditional territory of a Yukon First Nation and are historically significant to both the First Nation and the Yukon as a whole, a number of historic sites are co-owned and co-managed by both governments according to specific provisions negotiated in individual First Nation Final Agreements.

**Fort Selkirk**

2000 was a landmark year for Fort Selkirk – a place already with an event-filled past. In August 2000, the Yukon Government Minister of Tourism met with the Chief of the Selkirk First Nation to accept and sign the Fort Selkirk Management Plan. About 75 people from Pelly Crossing and Whitehorse made their way by boat and airplane to the site to view the ceremony and to partake in the following feast. Besides the Minister and Chief, dignitaries included the Yukon Senator, who was raised at Fort Selkirk, several other Members of the Legislative Assembly, former chiefs and the Commanding Officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. At the same time a special award was given to Danny Roberts, long-time caretaker and “mayor” of Fort Selkirk.

New site work in the past year included training in the fabrication of historic windows and doors and the installation of alternate “green” energy systems, including “run of the river” hydro power alternators and solar cells.

**Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site**

The Management Plan Steering Committee for this site met for the first time in July 2000 at the Forty Mile town site. They inspected the work of a crew of archaeologists mapping the historic features. In its heyday, just prior to the Klondike Gold Rush, more than 100 buildings stood at Forty Mile but only a handful remain. In accordance with the *Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Final Agreement* the Steering Committee is made up of three appointees each from the First Nation and the Yukon Government and has the task of developing a management plan for the site. The site comprises property on each side of the mouth of the Forty Mile River where it flows into the Yukon River some 100 km northwest of Dawson City. The sites of Fort Cudahy, a historic North American Trading and Transportation Company post, and Fort Constantine, the first North West Mounted Police post in the Yukon, are on the north bank, opposite Forty Mile and are archaeological in nature.

As the Steering Committee goes about preparing the management plan, it is expected that archaeological investigations will continue over a number of years.

**Rampart House and Lapierre House Historic Sites**

There was considerable activity taking place at Rampart House Historic Site in the summer of 2000 as the two-storey log Cadzow store was disassembled and reassembled. The building is constructed of square hewn logs put together in what can be described as a *pièce-en-pièce*, Hudson’s Bay or Red River style, with bays of horizontal logs fit with tenons into mortised vertical posts. Rotten logs were replaced by or spliced together with new logs, hand hewn and stored on site the previous year. By the end of the construction season the ground floor beams and four walls were up, with the second floor joists and roof to be completed in 2001. Dan Cadzow was an independent trader who operated at Rampart House early in the 20th century.

Rampart House, on the Porcupine River on the Alaska border, and Lapierre House, on the Bell River near the NWT border are co-owned and co-managed by the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) and the Yukon Government according to the *VGFN Final Agreement*. A Joint Heritage Committee has prepared a management plan for the two sites that is expected to be officially accepted by both governments at a ceremony being planned for Rampart House in the summer of 2001.
International Polar Committee

The International Polar Committee (IPC) of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) was formed in 2000 to promote international co-operation in all aspects of protection and conservation work concerning non-indigenous heritage of the Arctic and Antarctic. ICOMOS is an organization representing 75 national committees dedicated to furthering the conservation, protection, rehabilitation and enhancement of monuments, groups of buildings and sites. The heritage left by visitors is only one unique aspect of northern heritage but one that reaches well beyond borders and the Arctic Circle. The IPC President is from Norway and members are currently appointed by Russia, New Zealand, France, Sweden, Australia, the United Kingdom and Canada. The first meeting of the IPC is being planned for the spring of 2001. People interested in joining ICOMOS Canada and being a member of a parallel, Canadian Polar Committee should contact doug.olynyk@gov.yk.ca.

CANQUA (Canadian Quaternary Association)

The Heritage Branch will be hosting the 2001 Canadian Quaternary Association (CANQUA) meeting August 20 to 24, 2001, in Whitehorse, Yukon. CANQUA is an interdisciplinary group including geographers, geologists, archaeologists, botanists and biologists devoted to the study of the Quaternary period, the last two million years of Earth’s history. Field trips are being planned for Fort Selkirk and the Klondike. For information about this conference and to find out more about the Branch and its activities see our web site at www.beringa.com.

Searching for Our Heritage

The Heritage Branch of the Yukon Government has been tracking the whereabouts of artifacts originating in Yukon for the past 12 years. In the early days of exploration in the North, traders, missionaries, whalers and scientists collected items manufactured by the indigenous peoples, along with natural history specimens. Much of Yukon’s material and natural history is held in collections around the world. These diverse collections speak of both the resources and of the people and lifestyles that were found when the artifacts/specimens were acquired. To date, more than 100 institutions worldwide have been identified as having Yukon collections.

The Heritage Branch has received funding from the Canadian Heritage Museums Assistance Program, to develop a database including images of the collections. This new resource will allow the Branch to address the growing interest in the intellectual access to this information, especially for First Nations objects. This heritage resource is available to researchers, museums and First Nations to gain a better understanding of Yukon’s unique

Yukon Ecoregions

1. Yukon Coastal Plain
2. British-Richardson Mountains
3. Old Crow Flats
4. Old Crow Basin
5. North Ogilvie Mountains
6. Eagle Plains
7. Peel River Plateau
8. Mackenzie Mountains
9. Klondike Plateau
10. Yukon Plateau - Central
11. Yukon Plateau - North
12. Selwyn Mountains
13. Hyland Highlands
14. Mackwa Plateau
15. Liard Basin
16. Pelly Mountains
17. Yukon Southern Lakes
18. Yukon-Stikine Highlands
19. Ruby Ranges
20. Saint Elias Mountains
21. Mount Logan
22. Fort MacPherson Plain
23. Boreal Mountains and Plateaus
heritage legacy. The Heritage Branch is continuing in the search for physical evidence of Yukon heritage. Any new leads or additional information about collections that will add to the documentation being compiled would be appreciated. Inquiries can be referred to Ed Krahn (ed.krahn@gov.yk.ca) or Drew Ball (drew.ball@gov.yk.ca).

**Renewable Resources – Tourism and Parks**

**Yukon Protected Areas Strategy**

The Yukon Protected Areas Strategy (YPAS) was completed in December 1998. The principal goal of YPAS is to represent each of Yukon’s 23 ecoregions in protected areas. Seven ecoregions are adequately represented and resource assessments are underway in five unrepresented ecoregions. The assessments will help identify areas of interest to be considered for protection through YPAS, which is a public process involving a Local Planning Team and extensive consultations. While distinct from YPAS, other potential protected areas known as Special Management Areas are being established through the land claim negotiation process and can contribute to achieving the YPAS goals.

Based on two years of experience in implementing YPAS, the Yukon, federal and First Nation governments are now reviewing elements of the selection and designation process. A Public Advisory Committee, consisting of conservation, industry and other stakeholders, has been formed to ensure public participation in the review. The review is addressing:

- how assessments of natural, socio-cultural and economic values are prepared and considered;
- options for legislating YPAS; and
- clarified roles and responsibilities for participants in the process.

The results of the review will be incorporated in the next protected area planning initiative starting in the spring of 2001.

**Asi Keyi Territorial Park (Proposed)**

Asi Keyi is a Special Management Area (SMA) that was negotiated as part of the yet to be ratified Kluane and White River First Nation Final Agreements. In 1997, the Yukon and federal governments made a commitment to provide interim protection for Asi Keyi before the Final Agreements come into effect. In November 2000, the federal government approved interim protection of the Asi Keyi SMA for a five-year period.

Asi Keyi is proposed as a 3,000 km² natural environment park under the Yukon Parks Act. It is connected to the north side of Kluane National Park Reserve of Canada near Beaver Creek and incorporates a large part of the former Kluane Wildlife Sanctuary.

Klutlan Glacier, the most dramatic feature of the SMA, is globally significant because of the abundant vegetation growing on top of the ice. The Glacier terminus is insulated by a one-metre thick blanket of volcanic ash from the White River eruption about 1,450 years ago. The ash now provides a base for a broad range of vegetation communities from shrubs to forests.

Asi Keyi includes the Wolverine Plateau, an unforested area that supports many Beringian plants unique to the region. The future park also captures most of the Yukon part of the Chisana caribou herd range in the White River valley (also see article on page 12).
Fishing Branch Wilderness Preserve

The boundaries of the Fishing Branch Wilderness Preserve (5,400 km²) and Habitat Protection Area (1,000 km²) were approved by the Yukon Government in December 1999 on the recommendation of the Local Planning Team. These two areas surround the previously existing Fishing Branch Ecological Reserve and Vuntut Gwitchin Settlement Land at Bear Cave Mountain. Together, these lands form a protected area complex that encompasses the Fishing Branch River watershed and part of the adjacent Cody Creek watershed, providing protection for key habitats and cultural sites in the region.

The key ecological feature of the Fishing Branch area is the September chum salmon run which supports the regional grizzly bear population just before winter denning. The Fishing Branch Wilderness Preserve is representative of the North Ogilvie Ecoregion, and a small portion of the Eagle Plains Ecoregion. The land for the Ecological Reserve and Wilderness Preserve will be transferred from the federal to the Yukon government early in 2001. The Habitat Protection Area will not be transferred and mineral, along with oil and gas rights, will not be withdrawn.

The Local Planning Team has begun the preparation of a management plan for the protected area complex. It is expected that the plan will be out for public review in the spring of 2001. With four designations and three landowners (Vuntut Gwitchin, Yukon and Canada), the biggest challenge for the Local Planning Team will be devising a management plan that treats the area as one ecological unit (also see article on page 12).

Tombstone Natural Environment Park

The final boundary for Tombstone Natural Environment Park was approved by the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in and Yukon governments in December 1999, and encompasses 2,232 km². This boundary was based on the work of the Tombstone Steering Committee, established under the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Final Agreement. The only departure from the Steering Committee’s final boundary recommendation was the exclusion of a one km corridor along the Dempster Highway through the Park. This area was excluded to maintain a right-of-way for future pipeline infrastructure development.

Management planning for Tombstone Park is well underway. The Steering Committee has developed a draft vision for the Park. Throughout the summer and fall of 2000, the Steering Committee collected input from the public and government agencies on issues to be discussed during the management planning work. It is expected that the draft management goals and actions will be presented to the public for comment in the spring of 2001. The draft management plan itself will likely be released for public review by late summer.

Tombstone Park contains a great diversity of landscapes from the subarctic Blackstone Uplands with pingos, patterned ground and unglaciated features, through the spectacular South Ogilvie Mountains, to the forested lowlands of the North Klondike and Chandidu River valleys. The Park includes traditional travel routes, a year-round village site and many other sites important to the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in (also see article on page 12).
Inuvialuit Settlement Region

Government of Canada – 
Parks Canada – 
Western Arctic Field Unit

Introduction

Three national parks, three national historic sites and the Pingo Canadian Landmark, protect and promote areas that represent the remote wilderness character, cultural heritage and unique northern landscapes of the western Arctic. All three parks are relatively large compared to national parks in southern Canada and represent areas of remote northern wilderness. Kitigaaryuit (Inuvialuit Settlement Region), Fort McPherson and Nagwichoonjik (Gwich’in Settlement Area) National Historic Sites commemorate the importance of these sites to Canada’s history.

Research and monitoring activities create a better understanding of the cultural and ecological resources, and will guide planning and management of national parks, national historic sites and the Canadian Landmark. Research projects were conducted by Parks Canada during the spring, summer and fall of 2000 to answer specific questions, while monitoring involved repeated observations in order to understand how systems change over time and how they are affected by disturbances. Monitoring programs are being designed to learn about ecosystem elements and processes in the sites managed in the western Arctic, and how these resources are changing.

The next challenge to implementing an effective research and monitoring program is to summarise the information that is collected. A report compiling the results of these activities and an assessment of their effectiveness will be available early in 2001. The main goal of this report is to make the information collected through research and monitoring activities available to Parks Canada staff, co-management partners, the public, and to assist with the management of the sites and surrounding regions. The development of a geographical information system and a data management system is a key component for making the information useful for park management.

Involvement continued in an initiative to measure landscape level changes using Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR) satellite images. AVHRR images are taken of each park every ten days and provide information about changes to vegetation and snow cover. Additional vegetation and habitat monitoring activities are being developed to complement the information collected through satellite images.

Parks Canada staff conducted breeding bird and raptor surveys (with a particular emphasis on peregrine falcons) and participated in the NWT-Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey. Surveys were also conducted for moose and...
National Park and National Historic Site Proposals
57. East Arm of Great Slave Lake
58. Northern Bathurst Island
59. Torngat Mountains
60. Tuktut Nogait
61. Ukkusiksalik
62. Utkuhiksalik

Heritage Rivers
63. Alsek
64. Arctic Red River
65. Bonnet Plume
66. Kazan
67. Soper
68. South Nahanni
69. Tatshenshini
70. Thelon
71. Thirty Mile (Yukon River)

Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
72. Beechey Island
73. Kusawa Lake
74. Northwest Passage/Franklin Expedition
75. Ram Plateau
76. Uvajuk

Proposed Heritage Rivers
77. Coppermine

Other Conservation Areas
78. Asi Keyi Special Management Area (proposed)
79. Ddhaw Gro Special Management Area
80. Harry Gibbons/East Bay Bird Sanctuary
81. Horseshoe Slough Habitat Protection Area
82. Igaliktuq National Wildlife Area (proposed)
83. Kendall Island Bird Sanctuary
84. L'hotsaw Wetlands Special Management Area
85. Nirjutiqavik National Wildlife Area (proposed)
86. Nitsutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area
87. Nordenskiold River Special Management Area
88. Old Crow Special Management Area
89. Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area
90. Prince Leopold Bird Sanctuary
91. Qaqalluit and Akpait National Wildlife Areas (proposed)
92. Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary
93. Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area
94. Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary

Legend
- Existing Parks, Park Reserves, Game Sanctuaries
- Proposed Parks
- Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites
- National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)
- Areas Under Study
- National Park Proposals
- Heritage Rivers
- Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
- Proposed Heritage Rivers
- Other Conservation Areas
muskoxen on the Yukon North Slope, and for lemmings on Banks Island.

**Aulavik National Park of Canada**

Aulavik National Park of Canada is located on northern Banks Island and represents the Western Arctic Lowlands Natural Region. Inuvialuit and the Government of Canada signed an agreement to establish the Park in 1992; lands were withdrawn for national park purposes in 1994; and the Canada National Parks Act was amended to include Aulavik on October 20, 2000.

Research activities in Aulavik included an inventory of fish in the Thomsen River, studies of the paleolimnology of lakes and rivers, investigations of Devonian-aged coral reefs, and caribou and muskox classification surveys.

Ecological monitoring activities were conducted in 2000, focussing on climate, vegetation and habitat, wildlife, and the impact of human use on natural and cultural resources. Climate monitoring involved automated weather stations to measure air temperature, precipitation, humidity, solar radiation, wind speed and direction, snow depth and UV-B radiation. Water quality tests were performed on the Thomsen River and permafrost temperature probes were added to two weather stations in Aulavik.

Cultural resource monitoring took place at three sites in Aulavik. These monitoring activities will provide valuable information about the condition of these sites.

**Canadian Pingo Landmark**

The Canadian Pingo Landmark, the only landmark in Canada, represents the permafrost and pingo terrain characteristic of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula.

Two Elders were taken out into the Landmark and were interviewed regarding their use of the area as part of a cultural resource survey conducted in 2000.

**Ivvavik National Park of Canada**

Ivvavik National Park of Canada is located in northern Yukon and represents the Northern Yukon and Mackenzie Delta Natural Regions, and was established through the Inuvialuit Final Agreement in 1984.

Research in Ivvavik included an assessment of human use impacts on a remote tundra lake and population surveys of the Porcupine caribou herd. A campsite monitoring program continued along the Firth River to judge the impact of human activity and assess the wilderness quality of these campsites. Cultural resource monitoring along the Firth River will provide valuable information about the condition of these sites.

Ecological monitoring activities conducted in Ivvavik focussed on climate, vegetation and habitat, wildlife, and the impact of human use on natural and cultural resources. Water quality and the rate of flow were tested on the Firth River and plans are in process to begin monitoring permafrost depth at weather stations within the Park.

**Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada**

Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada is located east of the community of Paulatuk, inland from the Arctic Ocean, and represents the Tundra Hills Natural Region. The Park was established in 1996, following seven years of negotiations between Inuvialuit and the governments of Canada and the NWT. Lands remain withdrawn in the Sahtu Settlement Area and Nunavut for national park purposes until 2003.

In December 1998, then Secretary of State for Parks announced a two million dollar, accelerated funding commitment for employment and economic benefits related to the Park. Following community consultations, a number of projects were identified that would benefit both the Park and the community.
of Paulatuk. These included the delivery of an ecotourism training program for future guiding opportunities associated with the Park and the local area. The construction of a visitor reception centre and operational facility in Paulatuk was completed and Parks Canada expects to move into the new facilities by April 2001. Parks Canada also sponsored the attendance and performance of six local Inuvialuit drummers and dancers at the 2000 Expo in Hanover, Germany. The trip was a success and a great educational opportunity for the youths aged 13 to 15.

A number of monitoring activities were also conducted in 2000. Automated weather stations measured air temperature, precipitation, humidity, solar radiation, wind speed and direction, snow depth and UV-B radiation. Plans are being made to begin monitoring permafrost depth at these weather stations. Water quality and flow were tested on the Hornaday River.

Two cultural resource research projects were conducted and the second of a three-year archaeological inventory was completed. Elders and hunters in Paulatuk were interviewed to collect local knowledge about the Paulatuk and Park area.

Caribou classification counts, productivity surveys and an aerial photo census of the Bluenose-west and Cape Bathurst caribou herds were also undertaken, in addition to aquatic quality and paleolimnology studies of four lakes, and mapping of vegetation.

**Government of Yukon – Tourism – Heritage Branch**

**Herschel Island Territorial Park**

There are a number matters currently under consideration related to heritage structures on Herschel Island. The Northern Whaling and Trading Company (NW&TC) warehouse and store building has suffered increasing erosion of its foundation by wave action and was damaged by sea ice driven up by storm winds in 2000. The whaling settlement area at Pauline Cove is just above sea level and is subject to the effects of natural forces continually reshaping the coastline. Industrial sandbags have been placed along the shore side of the NW&TC building and once its foundation has been stabilized, the situation will be monitored to see whether the recent occurrences indicate a long-term trend and threat.

Heritage Branch is in the process of planning the reconstruction of the framework of a pre-contact sod house in order to improve the interpretation of life on the Island prior to its discovery by Sir John Franklin in 1826. The sod house frame will be based upon evidence uncovered through archaeological investigations on the Island. The Branch is also working with the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre to determine the appropriate treatment of Inuvialuit graves on the Island. There may be in the vicinity of 100 burial sites, and some very deteriorated. Studies may be undertaken to determine what effect solifluction of the soil due to melting of permafrost is having on them now and potentially will have on them in the future.

Heritage Branch will be participating in the review of the Park Management Plan that is currently underway. According to the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the settlement area at Pauline Cove is to be managed by the Yukon Government in a manner no less stringent than that of a national historic site (also see following article).

**Renewable Resources – Tourism and Parks**

**Herschel Island Territorial Park**

Herschel Island was formally established as a Yukon Territorial Park in 1987 as part of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. A Park Management Plan prepared co-operatively with Inuvialuit was completed early in 1991. A formal review of the Plan began in 2000 and is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2001. Many of the issues that need to be addressed in this review were not foreseen in the late 1980s. In addition, new resource data has become available allowing for more informed decisions. The revised Plan is intended to provide long-term strategic direction for the management of the Park.

One of the main issues in the review is the increased number of visitors to the Park. Cruise ship traffic has increased considerably in the Northwest Passage over the last seven years and Herschel Island is now being used as a stopover point. Groups of more than 100 visitors are stopping at the Island for four hours or longer, and two to four cruise ships arrive each summer. This activity has raised significant concerns about carrying capacity and how to effectively manage such large numbers of people at one time without ruining the Park for other visitors (also see previous article).

The issue of use versus protection needs to be evaluated in detail, especially in light of the Park’s small size. The number of annual visitors has risen from 150 in the early 1990s to 750 to 900 in more recent years. This trend cannot continue. Immediate action needs to be taken to protect the Park’s resources while attempting to meet the visitors needs.

Another issue is that it has become evident that the Park cannot be managed as a separate
entity even though it is an island. Surrounding activities have both environmental and visual impacts on the Park. Increased oil exploration and development and rising aircraft activity, for example, can have significant impacts on the Park and its visitors. An integrated management regime, including areas outside of the Park, may be necessary to minimize these impacts and maintain ecological values in the larger area.

These issues and others will be addressed over the winter of 2000/01 through public forums and special interest group meetings held throughout the Yukon and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. This process will result in an updated plan that is more appropriate for managing the Park’s resources early in the 21st century.

Gwich’in Settlement Area

Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute

Gwich’in Elders’ Biographies Research Project
Sarah Simon, Hyacinthe Andre, Mary Kendi, Eunice Mitchell, Pierre Benoit, Catherine Mitchell, and Alfred Semple, seven of the oldest Elders in the four Gwich’in communities, were interviewed on behalf of the Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) this past summer about their life histories. The information from the interviews was used in the 2001 GSCI Elders Calendar. Further interviews are anticipated next year that may lead to the publication of a book for use in the schools.

Gwich’in Ethnobotany Book
The Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute has been working with Parks Canada, the Aurora Research Institute and Gwich’in Elders to produce a book about Gwich’in traditional use of plants for food, medicine, shelter and tools. This book includes information on Gwich’in names for these plants, where they are found and how they can be used. A few recipes are also included for making medicine. The book was released early in 2001.

Gwichya Gwich’in History Book
Since 1996, the Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute has been working on a land use and community history book entitled Googwandak: A History of the Gwichya Gwich’in and of Tsiigehtchic. The book will be published in the winter of 2000/01. This unique document recounts the land use and culture of Gwichya Gwich’in through oral history, archival, published and archaeological information collected since 1992. This 350-page document contains more than 100 photos, maps and diagrams and will be a unique contribution to the northern literature and an invaluable teaching resource. It has been funded by Parks Canada, the Millennium Fund, the Government of the NWT – Department of Education, Culture and Employment, the Beaufort-Delta Education Council, the Gwichya Gwich’in Council and the Tsiigehtchic District Education Authority. This is the first of a series of Gwich’in community and land-based history books that will be completed over the next ten years.

Gwich’in Language Plan
The Government of the NWT has recently devolved funding and responsibility for language programs to the Aboriginal language groups in the NWT. This summer, the Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute began to implement the five-year Gwich’in Language Plan developed in 1999/00, in consultation with Gwich’in communities, organizations, local schools and government. A Manager of Language Programs and a Techno-Linguist were hired to begin implementing the projects and programs outlined in the Plan. The projects funded in 2000 included the Gwich’in Dictionary; Gwich’in Traditional Clothing Project; Community Language Initiative Projects; Gwich’in Elders’ Biographies Project; and a 2001 calendar showcasing Gwich’in Elders.

Gwich’in Science Camp
The Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute offered its fifth annual on-the-land traditional knowledge and western science camp for senior high school students. This year’s camp was held at Knut Lang Camp outside of Aklavik in March 2000. Students from Aklavik, Inuvik and Tsiigehtchic worked with Gwich’in Elders, local community members knowledgeable about Gwich’in history, culture and traditional knowledge, scientists from the disciplines of anthropology, biology and geography who are currently on staff with Gwich’in organizations and co-management boards, and the Government of the NWT. Two high school credits were awarded to students who completed the camp. The camp addresses the widespread concern that youth in the Gwich’in Settlement Area are not spending enough time on the land learning about Gwich’in culture and traditional knowledge. It also addresses the concern that
students are dropping out of high school and therefore do not have the academic qualifications and skills needed to carry out many of the jobs needed to successfully implement the Gwich’in Land Claim, or to find other professional employment.

Internet Site
During 2000, the Gwich’in Tribal Council (GTC) developed a web site which provides information about the Gwich’in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement and the organizations under the umbrella of the GTC. The Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) is the cultural/heritage/educational arm of the GTC and information about GSCI can now be found in the “Educational and Social” link of the web site. The web site address is www.gwichin.nt.ca.

Nagwichoonjik National Historic Site Project
(Gwich’in part of the Mackenzie River between Thunder River and Point Separation)
Nagwichoonjik was declared a National Historic Site in January 1998. It is unique in Canada in that it is one of the largest such sites, stretching for 170 km along the Mackenzie River, and is among the first such sites designated using the concept of cultural landscapes. The Nagwichoonjik Community Steering Committee has finalized the text for the plaque that will be erected in the community of Tsiigehtchic, commemorating the National Historic Site. A Commemorative Integrity Statement should be finalized by the late fall/early winter of 2001, which will lead to the Management Plan and the negotiation of a Cost-Sharing Agreement.

Repatriation and Replication of Gwich’in Traditional Clothing Project
During the fall and winter of 2000, the Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute, in partnership with the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC), began replicating a 19th century Gwich’in man’s summer caribou skin outfit currently housed in the Canadian Museum of Civilization. The outfit consists of a tunic, pants with attached feet, cap, mitts and knife sheath and is extensively decorated with dyed porcupine quills, silver willow seeds and fringes. The clothing is being replicated by seamstresses from all four Gwich’in communities. Using traditional materials and methods of construction and decoration, five copies of the clothing will be produced – one set for each of the four communities in the Gwich’in Settlement Area for educational and display purposes, and a set for the PWNHC for exhibit and collection purposes. It is expected that the five sets of clothing will be completed by March 2001. All stages of this project are being recorded with the intention of producing an educational video in 2001/02.

Tape and Photo Archive Project
During the course of many Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) projects, hundreds of hours of oral history tapes have been recorded and thousands of photos and slides have been taken. Working with the Gwich’in Language Program staff, GSCI is working to ensure that these tapes, photos and slides are all translated/transcribed, catalogued, indexed and archived with duplicates deposited in the Territorial Archives. In order to make this material more readily available to Gwich’in beneficiaries, the Tape and Photo Archive Project has been implemented. During the fall and winter of 2000, the Gwich’in Tribal Council (GTC) was able to release the Tape and Photo Archive Project, or to find other professional employment.

Government of Canada – Parks Canada

October 2000 was a month of many achievements for the Parks Canada Agency.

On October 12, the Minister of Canadian Heritage formally released the National Historic Sites of Canada System Plan. This long-term strategy addresses the need to improve the System to commemorate the people, places and events that have shaped Canada’s history, and places emphasis on doing more to mark the historic achievements of Aboriginal peoples, women and ethnocultural communities.

The Parks Canada Agency Corporate Plan 2000/01 to 2004/05 was tabled in Parliament on October 16. The Plan lays out the Agency’s strategic objectives and investment strategies over the next five years.

Tabled in Parliament on October 18, the State of Protected Heritage Areas 1999 Report highlights the significant progress that has been made in building the systems of national parks, national historic sites and other heritage protected areas. The report also identifies areas of concern, most notably the ecological stresses on national parks.

Bill C-27, An Act Respecting the National Parks of Canada, received Royal Assent on October 20. This is the most important piece of legislation governing Parks Canada’s mandate to protect and manage Canada’s national parks. The following National Parks of Canada were formally added to the national parks system: Aulavik, Auyuittuq, Quttinirpaaq, Sirmilik and Wapusk (also see articles on pages 20, 27 and 28). For more information, please consult www.parkscanada.gc.ca.
and the schools, GSCI is setting up a listening area at the cultural centre where people can come in to listen to their relatives speak about the land and the culture.

In addition to the projects above, the GSCI continues to review land and water applications on behalf of the Gwich’in Tribal Council for the Gwich’in Land and Water Board and the Gwich’in Lands Administration office, and provides advice on possible impacts on heritage resources in the Gwich’in Settlement Area (GSA). Discussions and development of a heritage layer for the geographic information system within the Gwich’in Lands Administration office are underway. GSCI also provides input into the Protected Areas Strategy being developed in the GSA and in the Yukon (the primary and secondary use areas) and is working to further this initiative.

Sahtu Settlement Area

**Government of Canada – Parks Canada – National Historic Sites**

**Délı̨ne Fishery and Fort Franklin, Sahyoue (Grizzly Bear Mountain) and Edacho (Scented Grass Hills) National Historic Sites of Canada**

The Délı̨ne sites of Fort Franklin and the Traditional Dene Fishery were commemorated jointly by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board as national historic sites in 1996. Together they speak of the relationship that evolved in the 19th century between Aboriginal people and Eurocanadian explorers. Sahyoue (Grizzly Bear Mountain) and Edacho (Scented Grass Hills) followed with a designation in 1998 as cultural landscapes of national historic significance. The designations of Sahyoue and Edacho are examples of sites that maintain the continuity of the cultural heritage of a people who travel extensively as they live off the land.

All four sites were commemorated with the unveiling of two trilingual plaques and interpretive panels in the summer of 1999. This ceremony acknowledged the continuing efforts of the community of Délı̨ne as they work in partnership with territorial and federal governments to ensure the protection and presentation of these sites.

**National Cost-Share Program**

Since the commemoration in 1999, the community of Délı̨ne has continued to work with Parks Canada to meet the requirements laid out in the national cost-share program (a program that provides assistance to national historic sites not owned by Parks Canada). This work involved the development of a Commemorative Integrity Statement (CIS) and a Conservation and Presentation report (C&P). The CIS states what is of national significance about the site and describes the health or wholeness of the site. The C&P outlines a specific plan of action for further work to be done, if needed, based on the values identified in the CIS. It will identify who will do the work, when and at what costs over a five-year period.

Information for the development of the C&P was gathered through research, visits to other national historic sites and ongoing consultation with the community of Délı̨ne. The goal of the activities was to gather information that
would help to identify issues, options and considerations for the presentation, conservation and implementation of the Délı̨ne sites. More specifically, information was gathered on logistical implications, cultural resources and their current condition, cost analysis and overall insights into the management implications of a landscape this size.

A Délı̨ne representative participated in a two-day Parks Canada Cultural Resources Management workshop in June 2000, followed by two days of visiting other national historic sites within the Coastal B.C. Field Unit (Fort Langley, Hatzic Rock, and the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Sites of Canada). This provided a sense of how other national historic sites operate and what types of day-to-day issues are dealt with.

Visits were also made to Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada and to the Délı̨ne site of Sahyoue during the summer of 2000. The three-day boat trip to Sahyoue included visits to sites representative of Sahtu Dene history: spiritual places, burial sites, camping and cabin sites, as well as the traditional portage trail on Sahyoue. At each site, stories were told about the traditional use and lifestyle of Sahtu Dene, capturing the spirit of the place and enhancing the overall experience and understanding of the site.

Protection of Lands under the NWT Protected Areas Strategy

Lands for Sahyoue and Edacho were withdrawn in February 2001 for a period of five years in accordance with the NWT Protected Areas Strategy. This interim measure, accomplished under the sponsorship of the Minister responsible for Parks Canada, withdraws surface and sub-surface Crown lands and sub-surface Sahtu lands. This will prevent any party from registering an interest in these lands while Sahtu Dene and Métis and government decide how best to conserve, manage and protect them for the future.

Parks Canada continues to work with the community of Délı̨ne toward the long-term protection and presentation of all four sites.

National Parks

Proposed Expansion of Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada

In March 2001, the Minister responsible for Parks Canada announced that discussions would begin in the Sahtu Settlement Area on the possible expansion of Tuktut Nogait National Park. This step was taken in response to interest expressed by Sahtu Dene and Métis. Any expanded national park would respect the terms of the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement and would be managed in a manner consistent with the Canada National Parks Act and any park establishment agreement. Despite the fact that an expanded park would include lands in two settlement areas (the Sahtu Settlement Area and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region), it would be managed as a unified whole under a single park management plan prepared for the approval of the Minister on the advice of a Park Management Board. The Sahtu Nation would have an appointee on the Board.

Dogrib First Nation

Government of the NWT – Education, Culture and Employment – Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

The Dogrib Caribou Skin Lodge Project

The Dogrib caribou skin lodge was a primary form of habitation for centuries, and evidence of its use is reflected in both Dogrib oral tradition and the material record. Archaeological sites in the NWT indicate that conical-shaped structures were in use for at least 5,000 years. As historic photographs show, hundreds of these lodges were in everyday use at the beginning of the 20th century, but when canvas tents became a common trade item in the 1920s the caribou skin lodges quickly disappeared.

The Caribou Skin Lodge Project began in 1997 when the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History returned a 104-year-old Dogrib skin lodge to the NWT. Purchased from the Dogrib trading leader “Bear Lake Chief” in 1893 by naturalist Frank Russell, the lodge now resides in the permanent collection of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC). It is likely the only surviving Dogrib caribou skin lodge and has since become an important touchstone to a bygone era.

In June 1998, the PWNHC, in partnership with the Dogrib Nation, opened a five-month exhibit of the original lodge. Due to its age and fragility, the exhibit was dismantled in October 1998. In order to fulfill community expectations of seeing the lodge on display, the PWNHC joined forces with the Dogrib Community Services Board and the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council to develop a
issue with the project, and they agreed to tan the hides, sew and decorate the lodges, and teach their skills to Dogrib youth. The Elders established a camp at Russell Lake near Rae where, throughout the fall of 1999 and spring of 2000, the lodges were made. One of the main objectives of the project was to pass these skills along to a younger generation. A camp with road access was chosen and many youth visited the camp each day to watch and participate. Tanning caribou hides is a laborious process, and it took several weeks to complete the hides necessary for the project. A total of 75 hides were acquired, as each of the two lodges required more than 30 hides. Once the hides were tanned, the women spent nearly three weeks cutting and sewing the two lodges with caribou sinew. The pattern requires careful cutting to ensure that the lodge drapes properly, and engineering such a complex structure from hides requires knowledge and skill.

While the women were working on the hides, the men travelled by boat to collect ochre from a site north of Rae. The ochre is mixed with water and applied to the hide with fingers, which helped seal the seams and make it waterproof while providing some colourful decoration to the finished lodge. Ochre is also associated with medicine power, and by painting a ring around the lodge it protects the inhabitants from harm.

The lodges were erected at the Dogrib National Assembly in August 2000, attended by representatives from all of the Dogrib communities. At the ceremony, the Dogrib Nation congratulated the women for their hard work and gave one of the lodges to the PWNHC to be incorporated in a permanent display. The other lodge now stands in the Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School in Rae to serve as a constant reminder to Dogrib youth of their culture, history and identity. The entire project was documented on video, and during the winter of 2000/01 a 30-minute documentary will be produced showing all aspects from start to finish.

To see photographs of the lodges being constructed, visit the PWNHC web site at www.pwnhc.learnnet.nt.ca/exhibits/lodge/lodgeproject.html.

Dene and Métis Claims Areas
(South Mackenzie)

Government of Canada – Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service

Mills Lake
The wetlands around Mills Lake, a widening of the Mackenzie River 40 km downstream from where it exits Great Slave Lake at the confluence of the Horn River, are important staging habitats for migratory waterfowl moving up and down the Mackenzie Valley. From 1994 to 1997, the Canadian Wildlife Service conducted aerial surveys at Mills Lake to obtain data on the numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds staging at Mills Lake during the spring and fall migrations. These are the first such data from Mills Lake since the early 1970s.

Fort Providence is interested in protecting Mills Lake for both subsistence and cultural reasons, but private land holdings in the area are a complicating factor. Recently, the Deh Cho First Nations leadership and Fort Simpson/Fort Providence have formally approved the combining of the Horn Plateau protected area initiative with the Mills Lake initiative. A single protected area will now be advanced through the process defined in the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (also see articles on page 8 and 10). The protected features of this one area will include:

- a representative example of northern boreal forest (Horn Plateau Ecoregion) that supports a population of woodland caribou now on the Endangered Wildlife in Canada list, and
- an important northern wetland.
Nunavut

Government of Canada –
Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Working Together for Hudson Bay

The Ocean Programs Division of Habitat, Fisheries and Oceans Management, Central and Arctic Region hosted two workshops in Winnipeg in October 2000 entitled Charting a Coordinated Approach to Management for the Western Hudson Bay and Examining the Health of the Hudson Bay Ecosystem. Other sponsors included Manitoba Conservation, Nunavut’s Department of Community Government and Transportation, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Manitoba Hydro, and the University of Manitoba – Centre for Earth Observation Science.

These workshops brought together key parties with an interest in the Western Hudson Bay region. The objectives were to initiate a process for the development of a co-ordinated approach for the management of the estuarine, coastal and marine ecosystems of the Western Hudson Bay region, and to provide participants with an understanding of the Ocean Management Programs.

More than 140 individuals attended, representing Nunavut, Nunavut Inuit Organizations, First Nations, Manitoba, Canada, academics, consultants, industry and non-government organizations, scientists and community members.

A poster exhibit and computer demonstrations of land use and research activities being conducted in Hudson Bay opened the workshops. Presentations reviewing current land/water management activities and responsibilities were followed by five themes that addressed:

- the environment;
- information and knowledge acquisition, sharing and management;
- Inuit/First Nation culture and subsistence harvesting;
- the economy; and
- jurisdictional issues.

The workshops closed with describing and assessing the current health of the Hudson Bay ecosystem and identifying marine environmental quality indicators.

The results of the workshops have provided the foundation for next steps, and will serve as a guide to the development of a co-ordinated management approach in Hudson Bay. An important component of this management approach will be describing a process for determining research needs and priorities in the Hudson Bay.

Proceedings from these workshops were available in January 2001. For further information, please contact Helen Fast, (204) 984-3484 (fasth@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) or Don Cobb, (204) 983-5135 (cobbd@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) at Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Central and Arctic Region, 501 University Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N6.

Parks Canada –
Nunavut Field Unit

Introduction

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires government and Inuit to conclude an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) prior to the establishment of national parks in Nunavut. An IIBA, signed on August 12, 1999, covers Auyuittuq, Quttinirpaaq and Sirmilik together, but there are some sections specific to each park. Some sections are unique to Sirmilik because this Park includes most of the existing Bylot Island Bird Sanctuary within its boundaries. The conservation regime for the Sanctuary will remain in effect with the establishment of the National Park.

Auyuittuq National Park of Canada

Auyuittuq (“the land that never melts”) National Park of Canada is 19,707 km² in size, and is representative of the Davis Strait Natural Region. Established as Auyuittuq National Park Reserve in 1976, Auyuittuq attained full national park status in 2000. It has been in operation since the early 1970s with approximately 600 visitors a season. Winter “freeze-up” and spring “thaw” seasonally limit travel to and from the Park. Summer season travel is possible July to mid-September, and winter season travel is possible generally late November through May. Visitor use may include hiking, climbing, glacial travel, ski touring and ski mountaineering. Local outfitters currently provide boat transportation, guided trips and dogsledding or snowmobile transportation to the Park for visitors. Park Offices and Visitor Centres are located in Pangnirtung and Qikiqtarjuaq.

Quttinirpaaq National Park of Canada

Quttinirpaaq (“top of the world”) National Park of Canada is representative of the Eastern High Arctic Natural Region and is Canada’s second largest national park, covering 37,775 km². Established as Ellesmere Island National Park Reserve in 1988, Quttinirpaaq attained full national park status in 2000. Seasonal from June to August with approximately
150 visitors, staff and visitors travel to Resolute Bay then on to Tanquary Fiord where a base camp/operational centre is located.

**Sirmilik National Park of Canada**

Sirmilik ("the place of glaciers") National Park of Canada, the newest of the three Baffin parks, offers spectacular scenery and wildlife viewing, and is rich in archaeological sites and cultural heritage, benefitting visitors with a rewarding wilderness experience. Sirmilik was established in 2000 and covers approximately 22,200 km² representing the Eastern Arctic Lowlands Natural Region. A Park office was opened in Pond Inlet next to the Visitor Centre, and staff have been preparing pre-trip information and are, themselves, becoming familiar with the area. The operating season may be similar to that of Auyuittuq, dependent upon temperatures and snow and ice conditions.

During 2000, Joint Park Management Committees were established for Auyuittuq, Quttinirpaq and Sirmilik. Each Committee is a six-person team; three appointed by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and three by the federal government; and provides advice to the Minister responsible for Parks on all aspects of park planning and management.

**Tuktusiuqvialuk (Northern Bathurst Island)**

Northern Bathurst Island is a good representation of the geology, landforms, vegetation and wildlife of the Western High Arctic Natural Region. It is also important habitat for Peary caribou; an endangered species found only in Canada’s Arctic islands. As a result of severe winters, the population of Peary caribou has decreased dramatically in the past few years. A major calving area for this species is found on northern Bathurst Island.
In October 1996, with the support of the community, Government of the NWT and Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the Prime Minister announced that lands for the proposed national park had been reserved under the Territorial Lands Act. This will prevent third parties from registering new interests in the land (e.g. mining claims) until October 1, 2001.

Bathurst Island is adjacent to Little Cornwallis Island, site of the Polaris Mine operated by Cominco Ltd., the northernmost base metal mine in the world. Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) geologists discovered a new showing of lead and zinc on Bathurst Island, south of the proposed park area, in 1995. Preliminary Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment (MERA) reports by the GSC had noted that parts of northern Bathurst Island, within the proposed park area, showed very high potentials for lead and zinc. To the northwest of Bathurst Island is the Sverdrup Basin, which hosts large reserves of oil and gas.

GSC Open File 3714, the final MERA report, was published in April 1999. It assigned very high potential for lead-zinc, and moderate to high potential for oil and gas in the Cornwallis Fold Belt of eastern Bathurst Island. Moderate to high potential for base metals and gas was assigned to the rest of the GSC study area. The GSC study area is also a potential access route to large proven oil and gas resources in adjacent parts of northern Nunavut. Economic viability of Arctic resource extraction has been demonstrated by Polaris Mine and past-producing Bent Horn Well.

In November 1999, a two-day workshop was held in Resolute Bay to discuss the final MERA report. Community representatives and workshop participants were presented with a description of the mineral and energy potential, an explanation of resource assessment methods, considerations for regional exploration and development, and potential economic impacts related to land access restrictions. The reserves at the Polaris Mine are diminishing and Cominco is actively exploring to the east of the mine site for new reserves to extend the mine’s life. Government representatives stimulated discussion, but did not take a position on any given issue. There was also some limited discussion of park and wildlife issues, in particular, the status of Peary caribou as an endangered species.

Since the release of the final MERA report, the new park feasibility study has been completed. Governments and Inuit are now in a position to determine whether or not to proceed to the next step in the park establishment process – formal negotiations regarding terms and conditions of park establishment. In accordance with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, such negotiations would take the form of an Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA). If both parties agree, IIBA negotiations could begin in 2001.

**Ukkusiksalik (Wager Bay)**

Negotiations are nearing completion for the creation of a national park at Wager Bay. As required by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), the Governments of Canada and Nunavut, and the Kivalliq Inuit Association, on behalf of all Inuit, are negotiating an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA). This agreement will set out the conditions under which a national park can be created and will include such topics as: park boundary; access; economic benefits to Inuit; co-operative management of the park; management of emergency kills of polar bears; outpost camps; and Inuit access to carving stone. Interim protection for the proposed park lands has been extended until October 1, 2004.

This long-standing proposal was first suggested in 1978. Public consultations started after the NLCA was completed and formal

Ukkusiksalik represents the Central Tundra Natural Region, and encompasses approximately 23,500 km². The heart of the park proposal is Wager Bay, an inland sea that extends 100 km westward from Hudson Bay. The proposed park area includes an impressive variety of land forms including eskers, mudflats, cliffs and drumlins. A wide range of habitats occur supporting such wildlife as caribou, muskox, wolf, arctic hare, peregrine and gyrfalcon. Coastal elements are prominent and a major marine component is included in the park proposal. Wager Bay has eight metre tides and strong tidal action that produces a dramatic reversing waterfall. Two areas of salt water remain open year-round and this contributes to the rich marine mammal life which includes polar bear, beluga, ringed and bearded seal. Cultural resources are prominent: over 500 archaeological sites have been found in the area and they include such features as fox traps, tent rings, food caches and inuksuit. The abandoned 20th century Hudson’s Bay Post and Roman Catholic mission add to the human story of the area and Inuit residents from Kivalliq communities continue to travel to the area to hunt and fish.

Nunavut Field Unit – Iqaluit

In September 2000, the Nunavut Field Unit moved to its new location in the Federal Building in Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut. This office centrally locates the Superintendent, Associate Superintendent, Finance, Administration, Personnel and Ecosystems Secretariat with other federal departments. Staff are now establishing contacts with territorial and local governments, Inuit organizations and others.

Logistics are more manageable in terms of travel and getting out to the communities. Operational Park offices are staffed year-round in Pangnirtung and Qikiqtarjuaq for Auyuittuq and Quttinirpaaq, and in Pond Inlet for Sirmilik.

Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service

Introduction
The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) devotes an entire chapter to conservation areas, including two National Wildlife Areas and 12 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries which are administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). Requirements of the NLCA include negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for most conservation areas, and the production of management plans for all conservation areas. In 2000, CWS and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. agreed to initiate work on an Umbrella IIBA to cover conservation areas in Nunavut, with site-specific appendices to this document to deal with issues relevant to certain Sanctuaries or Wildlife Areas.

CWS has identified priority sites for protection of critical wildlife habitat. As well, communities have nominated other sites to be protected by CWS legislation. Progress on some of these initiatives is described below.

Igaliqtuuq National Wildlife Area

In 1992, the community of Clyde River proposed the creation of Igaliqtuuq National Wildlife Area (NWA) to protect important bowhead whale habitat at Isabella Bay, Baffin Island. The boundaries for Igaliqtuuq were approved by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in June 1994. Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) negotiations between the Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) and the federal and territorial governments began in September 1997. A draft IIBA was produced in...
February 1998 and final negotiations are scheduled to begin in early 2001. Upon conclusion of the IIBA, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) will execute the formal designation process for the NWA, and CWS will work with Clyde River and the local HTO to begin habitat mapping and biological inventory work at Isabella Bay.

**Nirjutiqavvik National Wildlife Area**

Coburg Island and the surrounding waters were proclaimed as a National Wildlife Area (NWA) on August 30, 1995. The NWA, located off of the southeastern tip of Ellesmere Island, comprises one of the most important seabird nesting areas in the Canadian Arctic. Up to 385,000 thick-billed murres, black-legged kittiwakes, northern fulmars, and black guillemots nest on the precipitous cliffs on the south coast of Coburg Island, and on Princess Charlotte Monument, a small islet near the Coburg Island colony. The close proximity of Coburg Island to year-round openings in the sea ice (polynyas) in Baffin Bay and Lady Ann Strait provides abundant food for the birds and attractive habitat for polar bear, ringed and bearded seals, walrus, and migrating narwhal and beluga.

An ad hoc management committee, composed of Inuit representatives from Grise Fiord, Canadian Wildlife Services (CWS), and the Government of the NWT – Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, had determined goals and objectives for the NWA management plan. Further work on the management plan was halted, pending commencement of the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA). In late 1997, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) received Designated Inuit Organization status for Nirjutiqavvik. After preliminary discussions with CWS, QIA decided to delay the start of negotiations until the completion of the Igaliqtuuq IIBA. Nirjutiqavvik’s IIBA will be undertaken as part of the upcoming Umbrella IIBA negotiations for all of CWS’s conservation areas in Nunavut.

**Qaqalluit (Cape Searle) and Akpait (Reid Bay)**

Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) studies in the 1970s identified important seabird colonies at Qaqalluit (Cape Searle) and Akpait (Reid Bay), two sites approximately 70 km southeast of Qikiqtarjuaq (Broughton Island). Rock towers at the former site support several species of marine birds, including a northern fulmar colony estimated at 100,000 pairs (about 27% of the Canadian population). Cliffs at Akpait support several types of marine birds as well, notably a colony of 200,000 thick-billed murres (14% of the Canadian population). Through the late 1980s and early 1990s, CWS advocated designation of these sites as Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, but support was not forthcoming from the community of Qikiqtarjuaq. However, in 1999, the Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq received support from the Nattivik Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO), Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and the Qikiqtarjuaq Community Land Development Committee to reopen the discussions regarding protection of these sites as National Wildlife Areas (NWA). The Hamlet contacted CWS to begin these discussions.

In March 2000, CWS made a site visit to the candidate NWAs, and presented information on NWA creation during a Hamlet Council meeting in Qikiqtarjuaq. This was followed in late May by a CWS-sponsored public meeting in the community, at which time the community voted to proceed with
the work required to create the two new NWAs. With the help of the Nattivak HTO, the Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq, and the World Wildlife Fund, CWS began work in 2000 on gathering baseline ecological data and starting a community knowledge study of these sites. In 2001, discussions will take place on candidate boundaries for the sites, and field studies are planned to record the current population and distribution of birds at these colonies.

New CWS Office in Nunavut

In September 1999, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) opened its Nunavut office in Iqaluit. Most CWS conservation areas in Nunavut will be managed out of the Iqaluit office. Permits to conduct activities in Nunavut’s Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas will also be issued from here. CWS-Nunavut staff can be contacted at the address on the back of this publication.

Government of Nunavut – Department of Sustainable Development – Parks and Tourism Division

Introduction

Nunavut (“our land”) was formed on April 1, 1999, and is more than one-fifth the size of Canada with more than two-thirds of its shoreline. Since the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary was first recommended for protection in 1900 for its wildlife and aesthetic beauty, more than 300,000 km² of parks and conservation areas have been protected in Nunavut – an area approximately one half the size of Alberta.

Residents of Nunavut are proud of this natural and cultural heritage, their strong relationship to the diverse landscape and its resources, their communities, the wildlife, and their rich and important history. Nunavut’s Territorial Parks not only demonstrate and protect these significant natural and cultural areas and landscapes, but they celebrate them and proudly showcase them locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

The Department of Sustainable Development, through the Parks and Tourism Division, and the Wildlife and Environmental Protection Division, is responsible for parks, tourism, wildlife management, economic development and other matters related to land-based activities, and how people use and benefit from this resource in Nunavut.

Sila (“sky”), indicated in the swirl, reflects the long summer days, the northern lights dancing on a crisp evening, the movement of birds, or the power of the wind.

Nunavut Territorial Parks and the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement

The 1993 Nunavut Land Claims Agreement changed the role of government in the protection of the environment for Nunavut. This Agreement recognizes the value and desirability of parks and conservation areas, and further defines an approach to the establishment of protected areas within Nunavut – which includes meaningful community involvement, management, and impact and benefit measures related to protected areas. Meeting these obligations is an important and necessary first step in establishing existing and proposed parks and conservation areas. It is anticipated that Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement negotiations for territorial parks within Nunavut will be completed in 2001.

A New Nunavut Parks Program

In keeping with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the interests of Nunavut, and recognizing the distinct differences between Nunavut and all other jurisdictions, the Government of Nunavut has committed to the development of a Nunavut Park Program to identify the roles and values of parks and conservation areas in and for Nunavut. The Program will review the relationships between existing national and territorial parks and conservation areas in Nunavut, heritage rivers and other proposed measures such as marine conservation areas. When completed, the Park Program will ensure continued opportunities for effective long-term contributions to the goals of Nunavut and its communities through tourism,
recreation, habitat protection, economic growth and sustainable development. This Program will be followed by the creation of a parks and conservation areas system plan. Related changes to parks legislation and policy will guide future development of parks and conservation areas in Nunavut.

**Ijiraliq (Meliadine River) Territorial Park**

Just inland from the west coast of Hudson Bay, about 10 km northwest of the community of Rankin Inlet, lies Ijiraliq (Meliadine River) Territorial Park. In summer, visitors and residents enjoy the River’s spectacular scenery, eskers and bedrock outcrops, as well as fishing, and viewing the Park’s abundant wildlife including the endangered peregrine falcon. The Park’s most outstanding features, however, are its many archeological sites, remnant of Dorset, Pre-Dorset and Thule cultures.

Park development is now underway. Upgrading of the road to the Park has been completed, and the Hamlet has installed prefabricated park facilities such as an Elders’ shelter, picnic tables, outhouses and signs. Future plans include installation of additional signage, interpretation and production of a park brochure.

**Katannilik Territorial Park**

Katannilik (“the place of waterfalls”) in the South Baffin near Kimmirut includes an area of approximately 1,269 km², almost all of it in the Soper River watershed. A Management Plan for the Park was prepared in 1991 and the land was formally transferred to the territorial government for park purposes in 1995. The Park provides opportunities for water-based recreation including rafting, canoeing, and kayaking, as well as hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.

Katannilik stretches northward from the top of Pleasant Inlet along the west coast of Hudson Strait (just outside of the community of Kimmirut) toward the south shore of Frobisher Bay, following the Soper Valley and a traditional overland trail. The Park extends east and west beyond the valley, encompassing some of the rivers, deep gorges, sloping valleys, lakes and hills that make up the relief of the lower plateau.

Known as Kuujjuaq (“big river”), the Soper was designated a Canadian Heritage River in 1992 for its cultural significance in the lives of Inuit, its natural beauty, and its countless opportunities for recreation (also see article on page 7). The Park’s four distinct vegetation communities (including dwarf shrub/heath tundra, grassland tundra, bedrock/hill summit, and the snowpatch) provide habitat for caribou, fox, wolves, polar bear, and birds including peregrine falcons, gyrfalcons, ptarmigan, migrating geese, loons and shorebirds.

The Park’s facilities are intended to address concerns relating to public safety and limit the impacts from random camping and other visitor activities, including winter use of the Itijagiaq Trail (a heritage trail from Kimmirut to Igloolik). The restored Dewey Soper House in Kimmirut acts as the Katannilik Park Visitor Centre and provides interpretation for the Park and community. A river guide for canoeists and rafters using the Soper River was published in 1995 as a companion piece to the Itijagiaq Trail guide.

Visitor use continues to increase throughout the year, and has stretched the summer season out from late June through September. Summer visitor use alone has almost tripled since establishment in 1993, and has corresponding increases in the economic impact in Kimmirut for its arts and crafts, home-stay programs, and community activities and events.

**Kekerten Territorial Park**

Kekerten Park was a highly used whaling station during the 1850s and 1860s. Located 50 km from Pangnirtung within Cumberland Sound, the island was used as a whaling station soon after it was charted by Scottish whaler William Penny in 1840. Inuit knowledge of the whales, the area and survival in the Arctic made them essential allies in the Arctic commercial whaling industry. A number of artifacts remain as part of the whaling station including the foundation of three storehouses built in 1857 by Scottish whalers, large cast-iron pots once used for rendering whale oil, and restored tent frames and rings.

**Kuklok (Bloody Falls) Park**

Kuklok, or Bloody Falls Park, lies 15 km upstream from the community of Kugluktuk on the Coppermine River. The Park landscape of rolling tundra occasionally interrupted by escarpments and rocky outcrops, and the steep cliffs at the Falls and other areas along the River, provide for great wildlife watching, fishing, hiking and camping. The Park has become a well-used one-day canoe trip from Kugluktuk and nearly all canoeing and rafting parties descending the Coppermine River choose to camp at Kuklok. Local use of the area by community residents for camping and fishing is increasing, and reflects the traditional pattern of use for the site.

Bloody Falls, which lies within Kuklok Park, is the site of perhaps the most famous battle in the North. Recognized as a national historic site in 1978, remnants of winter houses used more than 500 years ago by Thule, archaeological evidence of caribou hunting camps...
more than 1,500 years ago, Pre-Dorset use of the site more than 3,500 years ago, and a rich history of Arctic exploration only begin to demonstrate the historic significance of the site. Because of this rich and important heritage, the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) and the community of Kugluktuk are exploring the Coppermine River as a potential Canadian Heritage River. A background report and information collection phase was started in late 2000, and will continue in 2001 toward nomination and designation in 2002 (also see article on page 7). Given the increasing use of the area and concerns that the natural and cultural values of the area could be at risk, representatives of Kugluktuk and DSD are participating in the development of a park at Bloody Falls. A conceptual park management plan was prepared in 1995 and approved by the community. Throughout the process, a community survey and meetings helped to identify the primary goals of the Park; protecting the archaeological sites; maintaining the area free of litter; and limiting the impact of all-terrain vehicles (ATV) by improving a defined route. Improvements to the ATV trail outside of the Park are ongoing and will be extended into the Park, along with facility and interpretive design and development.

Mallikjuaq Territorial Park

Located immediately north of the community of Cape Dorset, Mallikjuaq (“big wave”) was named for the rounded hills and low tundra valleys of Mallik Island, which resemble giant rolling waves. Within the 45-minute walk from Cape Dorset, several Thule sites and stone structures dating back some three millennia can be found. Mallikjuaq has several good vantage points offering panoramic views of the numerous islands and complex coastline of southwest Baffin, where tundra wildflowers, caribou, peregrine falcons, snowy owls, ptarmigan, polar bear, seals, beluga and possibly the bowhead whale can be seen.

This area has often been recognized for its natural and cultural heritage potential for park and tourism development. In 1991, a feasibility study recommended that park status be pursued, with a focus on cultural resources and activities. In 1992, archaeological and interpretative studies were carried out and plans were developed for a hiking trail. An oral history project and place name study followed in 1993. With further archaeological work in 1994, a Thule sod house was reconstructed. The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) acquired the old Baffin Trading Company building, which was relocated and restored for use as a park visitor centre. In the future, DSD will undertake extensive site investigation, environmental inventory and site assessment followed by the development of a park management and master plan, and site and facility design.

Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park

Located one km from the heart of Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut, Sylvia Grinnell Park provides an opportunity for the many visitors and residents to readily experience the Arctic landscape. The Park provides the visitor a chance to see the Baffin Island flora, including several rare plants such as the woodsisa fern; fauna, primarily caribou and arctic fox; and its cultural heritage, including traditional fishing sites at the rapids, stone cairns and Thule ruins.

In keeping with the Master Plan, park facilities were expanded to include an all-season pavilion and deck, a viewing platform overlooking the water, an access trail from the viewing platform to the water, and new washroom facilities. Future development plans include a footbridge link across the Sylvia Grinnell River to include Qaummaarviit Territorial Park within the boundaries of Sylvia Grinnell, along with expanded access and the establishment of formal camping areas. Qaummaarviit Park, a Thule site, has more than 750 years of Inuit occupation. Summer tents, kayak stands, meat caches and more can be viewed, including the remains of 11 winter houses which made use of raised living surfaces and deep entry to trap cold air – techniques rarely seen elsewhere.

Uvajuq (Mount Pelly) Park

Uvajuq describes the region that includes Mount Pelly, one of three mountains approximately 15 km east of the community of Cambridge Bay. Becoming increasingly popular for tourism because of its interesting mountain and lake landscape, and its characteristic Arctic wildlife, the area is also renowned for its diversity and numbers of Arctic birds. Many bird watchers from around the world are attracted by opportunities to add to their life lists.

Although Uvajuq is currently accessible only by a rough narrow route, it is already the most important day-use destination for local operators who wish to give visitors an appreciation of the Cambridge Bay area. Scheduled jet service and cruise ship traffic through the Northwest Passage continue to increase visitations to the area.
Additional information on the initiatives described in New Parks North can be obtained from the following offices:

**National Parks and National Historic Sites**

- **Parks Canada**
  - Box 1166
  - Yellowknife, NT
  - X1A 2N8
  - www.parkscanada.gc.ca
  - Attention: The Editor
  - New Parks North
  - Phone: (867) 669-2820
  - Fax: (867) 669-2829
  - E-mail: newparksnorth@pch.gc.ca

**Marine Protected Areas**

- **Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Central and Arctic Region**
  - Suite 101, 5204 – 50th Avenue
  - Yellowknife, NT
  - X1A 1E2
  - www.ncr.dfo.ca
  - Attention: Bert Spek
  - Marine Protected Areas Co-ordinator
  - Phone: (867) 669-4914
  - Fax: (867) 669-4941
  - E-mail: spekb@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Nunavut Territorial Parks and Heritage Rivers**

- **Department of Sustainable Development**
  - Parks, Trade and Tourism Division
  - Government of Nunavut
  - Box 1000, Station 1120
  - Iqaluit, NU
  - X0A 0H0
  - www.nunavutparks.com
  - Attention: Richard Wyma
  - Manager, Parks and Conservation Areas
  - Phone: (867) 975-5935
  - Fax: (867) 975-5980
  - E-mail: rwyma@gov.nu.ca

**Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Yukon Chapter**

- Box 31095
- Whitehorse, YT
- Y1A 5P7
- www.cpaws.org
- Attention: Juri Peepre
- Executive Director
- Phone: (867) 393-8080
- Fax: (867) 393-8081
- E-mail: cpaws@yknet.yk.ca

**NWT Protected Areas Strategy, NWT Territorial Parks and Heritage Rivers**

- Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Parks and Tourism
- Government of the NWT
- Box 1320
- Yellowknife, NT
- X1A 2L9
- www.rwed.gov.nt.ca
- Attention: Heidi Heder
- Implementation Co-ordinator, NWT PAS Secretariat
- Phone: (867) 920-3179
- Fax: (867) 873-0163
- E-mail: heidi_heder@gov.nt.ca

**Yukon Historic Sites**

- Tourism
- Heritage Branch
- Government of Yukon
- Box 2703
- Whitehorse, YT
- Y1A 2C6
- www.yukonheritage.com
- Attention: Doug Olynyk
- Historic Sites Co-ordinator
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- Fax: (867) 667-8023
- E-mail: doug.olynyk@gov.yk.ca

**Yukon Territorial Parks, Heritage Rivers and Yukon Protected Areas Strategy**

- Renewable Resources
- Parks and Outdoor Recreation
- Government of Yukon
- Box 2703
- Whitehorse, YT
- Y1A 2C6
- www.gov.yk.ca
- Attention: Dave Ladret
- Special Projects Officer
- Phone: (867) 667-3595
- Fax: (867) 393-6223
- E-mail: dave.ladret@gov.yk.ca

**NWT Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas**

- Environment Canada
- Canadian Wildlife Service
- Northern Conservation Division
- Suite 301, 5204 – 50th Avenue
- Yellowknife, NT
- X1A 1E2
- www.mb.ec.gc.ca
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**Nunavut Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas**

- Environment Canada
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For more information...
All of the agencies listed here have contributed to this publication. Our goal is to provide a single, annual publication of interest to everyone following new northern natural and cultural heritage conservation issues in a convenient and economical medium.

Your comments are welcome, addressed to the Editor at the National Parks and National Historic Sites address above.