

# The Canadian Heritage Rivers System



ANNUAL REPORT  
2009-2010

November, 2010

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

I present herewith on behalf of the members of  
the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, the twenty-fifth  
Annual Report on the Canadian Heritage Rivers  
System (CHRS) for the fiscal year 2009-2010.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Stewart', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

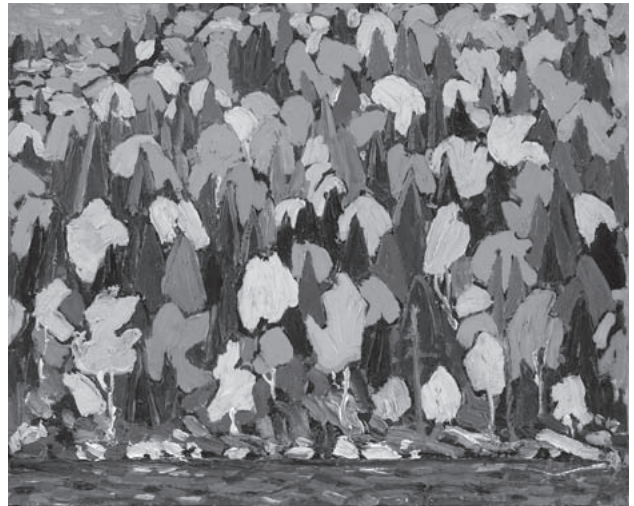
**Doug Stewart**  
**Chairperson**  
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board  
2009-2010

© Minister of Public Works  
and Government Services Canada, 2010

Published under the authority of the Minister of  
the Environment, on behalf of the federal, provincial  
and territorial Ministers responsible for the  
Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

Ottawa, 2010

Cat. no. R61-20/2010E-PDF  
ISBN 978-1-100-17347-4



Art Gallery of Ontario

*Cover Art: THOMSON, Tom  
Canadian. 1877-1917*

*AUTUMN FOLIAGE, 1916 Fall or Winter  
Oil on wood*

*21.6 x 26.8 cm*

*Gift from the Reuben and Kate Leonard  
Canadian Fund, 1927*

*Copyright: 2010AGO*

# Table of Contents

Minister's Message .....	4
Chairperson's Report .....	5
Status of the CHRS .....	7
The 2008-2018 CHRS Strategic Plan .....	9
Ministers Responsible for the CHRS .....	11
The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board .....	12
The 2009 Canadian River Heritage Conference: <i>Our Living Rivers</i> .....	13
River News .....	15



Owl Rafting

Rafting on the Ottawa River.

# Minister's Message

Canada is a country of spectacular landscapes and inviting waterways. Having been born and raised in the Ottawa area, the Rideau Canal is closely linked to my childhood memories. This made me very aware of the importance and value of waterways in Canada, which, of course, include heritage rivers. As the federal Minister responsible for the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS), I am looking forward to working with the CHRS and its partners.

In Canada, most of us can describe the region where we come from by the river that nurtures it. Rivers are the heart of the regions in which they exist; they connect us all. They link us to each other, to the environment, to our past and to our future. With their exceptional natural, cultural and recreational values, they affect how we view the world and ourselves. Rivers are also vital to our health and quality of life and are a reflection of the ecological health and diversity of the urban and rural communities along their shores.



**John Baird**

I would like to congratulate the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CHRS program. With its 37 designated heritage rivers, this program serves as a reminder of the pioneering spirit of our country. Heritage rivers are the highways of old and tell stories of the peoples who have explored their banks and relied on them for some of life's most fundamental necessities: food, water and transportation. This program inspires Canadians to work towards a common goal – the conservation and stewardship of our rivers.

We can all be proud of the achievements that have been accomplished since the creation of the program and I would like to celebrate the efforts of thousands of Canadians across the country who have invested great time and effort in supporting the Canadian Heritage Rivers System program. It is because of these committed, dynamic and above all determined partners that Canada's heritage rivers remain protected and managed for the benefit and enjoyment of generations – today and in the future. 🌿

*Original signed by*

**The Honourable John Baird**  
Canada's Environment Minister

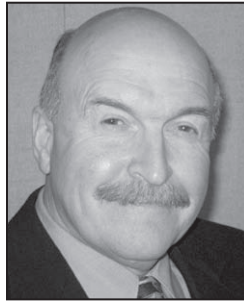


# Chairperson's Report

Having recently retired from Parks Canada, I am now adjusting to a more tranquil pace of life – one that mirrors the leisurely flow of the Rideau River as it winds through the community of Merrickville, where I currently reside. The Rideau, as a Canadian Heritage River, is to my mind the perfect backdrop for me to reflect on the five years I served as the Parks Canada representative on the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, and on this past year during which I served as Chairperson. I look back on the achievements of the Canadian Heritage Rivers program over this period with a sense of significant accomplishment. The program had some outstanding achievements for 2009-2010, and a few projects stand out to me as exceptional for the lasting legacy they will have on river conservation in Canada.

The Sixth Canadian River Heritage Conference was held in Ottawa-Gatineau from June 14-17, 2009. Parks Canada hosted this event in collaboration with the National Capital Commission, the Government of Ontario, and partners from Aboriginal organizations, communities, youth, non-governmental organizations, tourism, industry, academics, foundations and the general public. This conference was a model of excellence in collaborative partnerships. The organizing committee, sponsors and partners included Aboriginal organizations, industry, cultural and educational institutions, environmental NGOs, and community leaders in river stewardship.

One of the key conference outcomes was generated through partner organizations: the *2009 Canada's River Declaration*, which sets out a series of recommendations to improve the conservation of Canada's rivers. This Declaration will be a lasting legacy of the conference and will help to set the agenda of river conservation in Canada for the next ten years.



Doug Stewart

This year also saw the completion of a national policy paper on *Building a Comprehensive and Representative CHRS*. This report provides a detailed “gap analysis” regarding which river nominations would be the most efficient means of building a comprehensive system that fully reflects the spectrum of Canada's river heritage. The CHR Board and the Technical Planning Committee will now

look to this report as a blueprint to guide the expansion of the CHRS as we work towards completing the system by 2018.

A third project which has great potential to support the future of river stewardship in Canada is currently being undertaken by NGOs and river champion organizations to establish a Rivers Canada Foundation. This proposed Foundation would be a grant-making organization to provide financial support to local communities and organizations in their efforts to conserve and provide public benefits related to all of Canada's rivers. A business case for the proposed Foundation was completed by the Quebec Labrador Foundation in 2009, followed by a Governance Framework in 2010. These documents include the mission statement, goals and objectives, key activities, financial structure, operational and legal framework and governance for the proposed Foundation.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board is encouraged by and supports the concept of a Rivers Canada Foundation in terms of its contribution to the fulfillment of the Board's strategic actions (which are approved by the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for the CHRS). These strategic actions include exploring opportunities to build relationships and to enhance the management and delivery of benefits accruing from Canadian Heritage Rivers; and promoting innovative partnerships aimed at conserving Canada's rivers through public awareness, education, advocacy and direct action. Clearly, the proposed Rivers Canada Foundation has the potential to further these strategic actions.



As I review a year's worth of remarkable achievements for the CHRS program, I am struck by a recurrent theme that is integral to the success of each of the projects I highlighted above. The conference, the rivers declaration, the gap analysis and the work on the Rivers Canada Foundation – all of these projects relied on and grew out of the partnerships which are so fundamental to the Canadian Heritage Rivers program and to its continued success. I have no doubt that these partnerships will continue to be a hallmark of this program and its projects in the future.

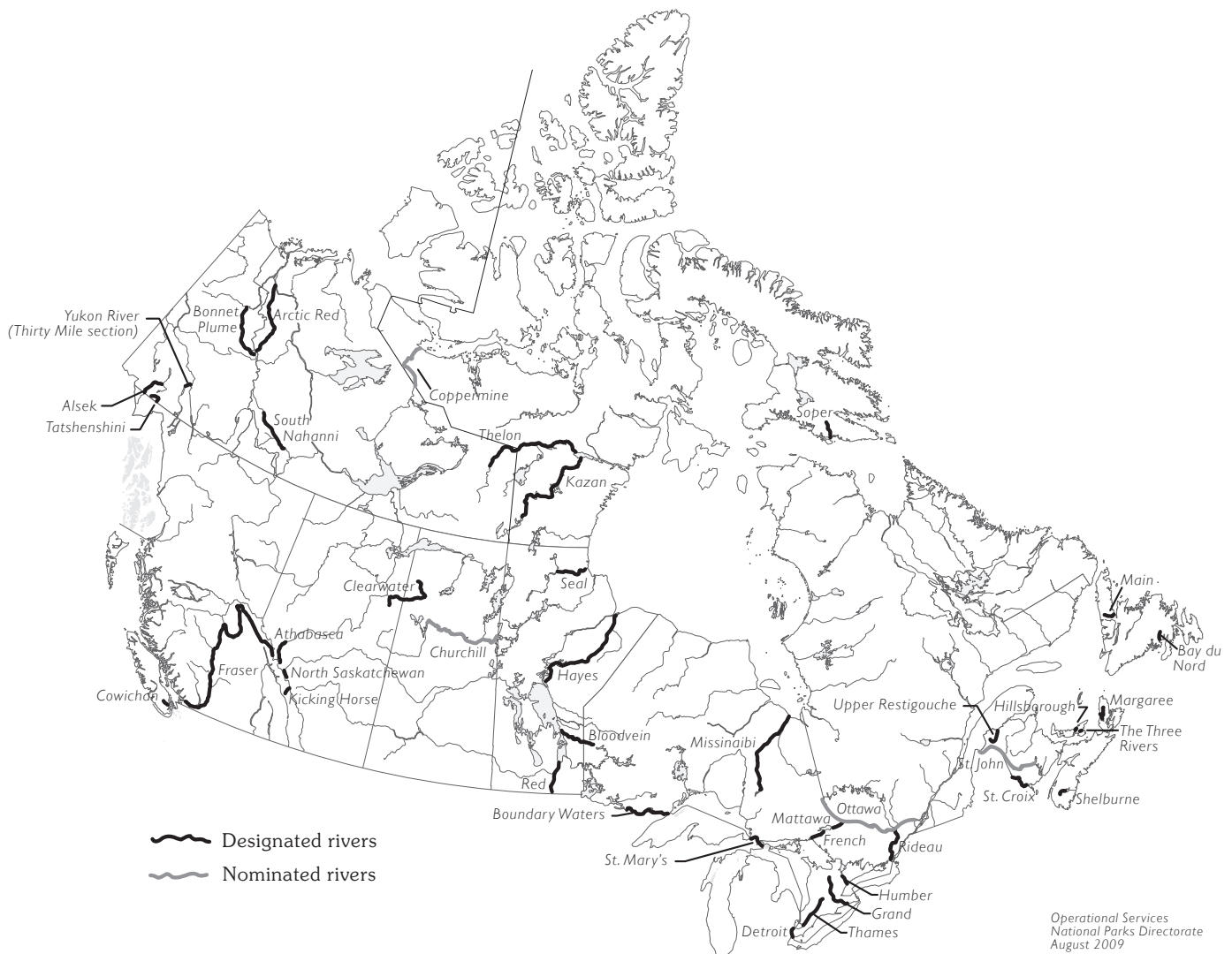
The Canadian Heritage Rivers Program is a uniquely Canadian success story. It relies on the passionate interest of thousands of Canadians in rivers and their natural and recreational values. Communities and volunteers make tangible contributions to the conservation and appreciation of our heritage rivers. On behalf of the Board of Directors, to all of those supporters of the CHRS program and rivers in Canada: I express our appreciation and congratulations. Keep up the good work! 🌿

**Doug Stewart**  
**Chairperson**  
 Canadian Heritage Rivers Board  
 2009-2010

# Status of the CHRS

*The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is Canada's national program for freshwater heritage conservation. It is a cooperative program of the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada. The objectives of the program are to give national recognition to Canada's outstanding rivers and to ensure long-term management that will conserve their natural, cultural and recreational values for the benefit and enjoyment of Canadians, now and in the future.*

*Forty-one rivers have been nominated to the CHRS, totalling almost 11,000 kilometres. Thirty-seven of these have been designated, meaning the management plans detailing how their heritage values will be protected have been lodged with the CHRS Board.*







## Designated Rivers

River	Location Province/Territory (Park <sup>1</sup> )	Date of Designation	Length (in km)
French	Ontario (French River PP)	February 1986	110
Alsek	Yukon (Kluane NP)	February 1986	90
South Nahanni	Northwest Territories (Nahanni NP Reserve)	January 1987	300
Mattawa <sup>3</sup>	Ontario (Mattawa PP and Samuel de Champlain PP)	January 1988	76
Athabasca <sup>7</sup>	Alberta (Jasper NP)	January 1989	168
North Saskatchewan <sup>7</sup>	Alberta (Banff NP)	January 1989	49
Kicking Horse <sup>7</sup>	British Columbia (Yoho NP)	January 1990	67
Kazan	Nunavut	July 1990	615
Thelon	Nunavut	July 1990	545
St. Croix	New Brunswick	January 1991	185
Yukon – The Thirty Mile <sup>7</sup>	Yukon	January 1992	48
Seal	Manitoba	June 1992	260
Soper <sup>5</sup>	Nunavut (Katannilik Territorial Park Reserve)	June 1992	248
Arctic Red	Northwest Territories	September 1993	450
Grand <sup>6</sup>	Ontario	January 1994	627
Boundary Waters/Voyageur Waterway	Ontario (La Verendrye/Quetico/Middle Falls PPs)	September 1996	250
Hillsborough	Prince Edward Island	January 1997	45
Shelburne	Nova Scotia	June 1997	53
Bonnet Plume <sup>6</sup>	Yukon	February 1998	350
Upper Restigouche	New Brunswick	February 1998	55
Bloodvein <sup>4</sup>	Manitoba (Atikaki PP), Ontario (Woodland Caribou PP)	June 1998	306
Margaree <sup>5</sup>	Nova Scotia	June 1998	120
Fraser <sup>4</sup>	British Columbia	June 1998	1375
Humber <sup>6</sup>	Ontario	February 1999	100
Rideau	Ontario (Rideau Waterway – Parks Canada)	February 2000	202
Thames <sup>6</sup>	Ontario	February 2000	273
St. Mary's	Ontario	February 2000	125
Detroit <sup>6</sup>	Ontario	February 2001	51
Main	Newfoundland	February 2001	57
Clearwater <sup>2</sup>	Alberta, Saskatchewan (Clearwater River PP)	October 2003	326
Cowichan	British Columbia	October 2003	47
Missinaibi	Ontario (Missinaibi PP)	May 2004	501
Tatshenshini	Yukon	May 2004	45
The Three Rivers	Prince Edward Island	May 2004	73
Bay du Nord	Newfoundland (Bay du Nord Wilderness Park Reserve)	August 2005	75
Hayes	Manitoba	August 2005	590
Red River	Manitoba	May 2007	175
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>9032</b>

## Nominated Rivers

River	Location Province/Territory (Park)	Length (in km)
Coppermine	Nunavut	450
Ottawa	Ontario	590
St. John	New Brunswick	400
Churchill	Saskatchewan	487

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1927</b>
--------------	-------------

<b>TOTAL km of NOMINATED and DESIGNATED RIVERS</b>	<b>10959</b>
--	--------------

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

# The 2008-2018 CHRS Strategic Plan: Our Commitment to Canada's River Heritage

## *Vision*

*We envision a system of Canadian Heritage Rivers that serves as a model of stewardship; one that engages society in valuing the heritage of rivers and river communities as essential to identity, health and quality of life*

On September 11, 2007 in Winnipeg, the 10-year Strategic Plan was approved at the Canadian Parks Council meeting of Ministers. This 10-year plan was implemented on April 1, 2008 and will be in place until March 31, 2018.

The new plan put forth four key priorities:

1. Build a comprehensive and representative system that recognizes Canada's river heritage.
2. Conserve the natural, cultural and recreational values and integrity of designated Canadian Heritage Rivers.
3. Engage communities and partners to maximize the full range of benefits associated with the Canadian Heritage Rivers Program.
4. Foster excellence in river management.

For each of the four priorities, a major goal has been put forth that is to be completed by 2018:

1. There will be a comprehensive system of Canadian Heritage Rivers representing the full range of natural, cultural and recreational values of importance to Canadians.
2. All designated rivers will be monitored and managed in an active and effective manner.
3. The Canadian Heritage Rivers System will be supported by a range of formal and informal partnerships that advance the CHRS program and deliver broad environmental and societal benefits associated with responsible river management.
4. The CHRS will play a significant role in promoting and supporting the effective management of all rivers as an essential component of sustainable living.

## Major Accomplishments for 2009-2010

As the lead federal agency in the CHRS, Parks Canada provides technical and financial assistance to participating jurisdictions for studies and plans that lead to including rivers in the System. This assistance is directed to specific projects on the advice of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. Some of the achievements in 2009-2010 towards fulfilling the four key priority initiatives in the strategic plan are listed below.

### Priority 1 Achievements

The following achievements were made towards the strategic plan's first key priority (Building a Comprehensive and Representative System).

- A national policy study (National Gap Analysis) on building a comprehensive and representative CHRS was finalized.
- Work was commenced on the renewal of the CHRS Charter by all participating agencies;
- Work continued on Background Studies for the Upper St. Lawrence River, Ontario, and the South Saskatchewan River, Saskatchewan.
- Work was commenced on the management plan for the St. John River, New Brunswick; and
- Monitoring and annual reporting on the 2008-2018 CHRS Strategic Plan continued.

## Priority 2 Achievements

The following achievements were made towards the strategic plan's second key priority (Conserving Natural, Cultural and Recreational Values and Integrity).

- Ten-Year Monitoring Reports were completed for the Mattawa and Humber Rivers, Ontario, and the Fraser River, British Columbia.

## Priority 3 Achievements

The following achievements were made towards the strategic plan's third key priority (Engaging Communities and Partners to Maximize Benefits).

- Partnered with multiple government, NGO and private sector organizations to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Canadian River Heritage Conference held in Ottawa-Gatineau, June 14-17, 2009.
- In conjunction with community partners, promoted the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Canadian Rivers Day nationally.
- Displayed the CHRS exhibit at several venues in Ontario and Saskatchewan.

- Created a new 8 x 10 foot exhibit and three banner stands showcasing a new brand look for the CHRS, built around the concepts "Experience Nature," "Experience Culture," and "Experience Adventure".
- Produced a commemorative plaque in conjunction with Lac Seul and Pikangikum First Nations for the Bloodvein River, Ontario, for unveiling in the summer of 2010.
- Published the 2010 Heritage Rivers Calendar in partnership with Paddling Canada. Over three thousand calendars were printed and distributed across the country, generating excellent publicity for the CHRS. All profits from the calendar are used to support national river conservation projects sponsored by Paddling Canada.
- Supported the completion of a business case and governance framework by NGO partners for the possible establishment of a Rivers Canada Foundation.

## Priority 4 Achievements

The following achievements were made towards the strategic plan's fourth key priority (Fostering Excellence in River Management).

- Developed a new three-year CHRS Communications Strategy: 2010-2013 to help communicate and celebrate success CHRS stories in conservation.
- Maintained an up-to-date website to which the CHRS research, policies, plans and program information is regularly posted, and to which heritage river projects and river management activities throughout Canada give valuable exposure.
- Continued to support and enhance triennial Canadian River Heritage conferences with a focus on 2012.
- Encouraged ongoing participation and feedback from river managers regarding the implementation of the 2008-2018 CHRS Strategic Plan and the effectiveness of existing management tools.
- Prepared and distributed the 2008-2009 CHRS Annual Report for electronic distribution.
- The CHRS Technical Planning Committee continues to be active in undertaking tasks defined by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, including the review of nomination documents, management plans and Ten-Year Monitoring Reports.




New CHRS exhibit and banner stands.



# Ministers Responsible for the Canadian Heritage Rivers System

One of the fundamental principles of the CHRS is that the nomination and management of Canadian Heritage Rivers remain with the responsible government. Generally, this is the provincial governments in the south, the federal government in national parks or on other federal lands, and the federal and territorial governments jointly in the north. The ministers responsible for the CHRS during fiscal year 2009-2010 are listed below. ❁



## Ministers Responsible for the CHRS (2009-2010)

**The Honourable Jim Prentice**  
Minister of Environment  
Government of Canada

**The Honourable Chuck Strahl**  
Minister of Indian Affairs  
and Northern Development  
Government of Canada

**The Honourable Charlene Johnson**  
Minister of Environment and Conservation  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

**The Honourable Sterling Belliveau**  
Minister of Environment  
Government of Nova Scotia

**The Honourable Wally Stiles**  
Minister of Natural Resources  
Government of New Brunswick

**The Honourable Richard Brown**  
Minister of Environment,  
Energy and Forestry  
Government of Prince Edward Island

**The Honourable Linda Jeffrey**  
Minister of Natural Resources  
Government of Ontario

**The Honourable Bill Blaikie**  
Minister of Conservation  
Government of Manitoba

**The Honourable Nancy Heppner**  
Minister of Saskatchewan Environment  
Government of Saskatchewan

**The Honourable Cindy Ady**  
Minister of Tourism, Parks,  
Recreation and Culture  
Government of Alberta

**The Honourable Barry Penner**  
Minister of Environment  
Government of British Columbia

**The Honourable John Edzerza**  
Minister of Environment  
Government of Yukon

**The Honourable Bob McLeod**  
Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment  
Government of the Northwest Territories

**The Honourable Daniel Shewchuk**  
Minister of Environment  
Government of Nunavut



# The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board

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

The CHRB is composed of one representative from Parks Canada and from Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada (INAC), and a representative from each of the participating provincial and territorial governments, with the exception of New Brunswick, which is represented on the Board by a government-appointed private citizen.

A Chairperson is elected for each fiscal year from among the Board's members and is responsible for organizing and chairing Board meetings, directing the operation of the Secretariat, and promoting public awareness of the CHRS. The 2010-2011 Chairperson is Adair Ireland-Smith of Ontario. 🍁

## 2009-2010 CHRS Board of Directors

2009-2010 Chairperson:  
Doug Stewart (Parks Canada)

Sian French (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Jim Young (Prince Edward Island)

Peter Labor (Nova Scotia)

Harry Collins (New Brunswick)

Adair Ireland-Smith (Ontario)

Barry Bentham (Manitoba)

Ken Lozinsky (Saskatchewan)

Doug Bowes (Alberta)

Brian Bawtinheimer (British Columbia)

David Monteith (Nunavut)

Richard Zieba (Northwest Territories)

Eric Val (Yukon)

Matt Bender (INAC)

## Canadian Heritage Rivers System Secretariat Staff (Parks Canada)

Don Gibson: National Manager

Andrea McNeil: Communications

Brian Grimsey: Senior Planner



CHRS Secretariat staff participated in the 2009 Canadian Rivers Day paddle on the Ottawa River.

Ottawa Riverkeeper



# The 2009 Canadian River Heritage Conference: *Our Living Rivers*



## Our Living Rivers: Linking Nature, People and Places through Time

Between June 14 and 17, 2009, close to 250 delegates gathered in Ottawa-Gatineau for the 6<sup>th</sup> Canadian River Heritage Conference, titled *Our Living Rivers*. With 2009 marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, and the conference site situated at the convergence of the Ottawa, Rideau and Gatineau Rivers, it was the perfect setting for delegates to present and discuss the chosen themes of “Sustaining Our River Heritage,” “Promoting Heritage and Recreational Opportunities,” and “Optimizing Economic and Social Benefits.”

Parks Canada hosted the event in collaboration with the National Capital Commission, the Government of Ontario, and partners from Aboriginal organizations, communities, youth, non-governmental organizations, tourism, industry, academics, foundations and the general public. The conference attracted delegates from all over North America, including a large Aboriginal and youth delegation. One of the key outcomes of the

conference, generated through partner organizations, was the 2009 *Canada’s River Declaration*, which sets out a series of recommendations to improve the conservation of Canada’s rivers. This Declaration will be a lasting legacy of the conference and will help to set the agenda of river conservation in Canada for the next ten years.

Conference field trips and related activities involved extensive outreach to the local community partners, including the Algonquin Circle of All Nations, Hydro Quebec, Chelsea H<sub>2</sub>O, the Robert O. Pickard Environmental Centre, and the Canadian Museum of Nature, the Ottawa Public Library and the Ottawa Heritage River Designation Committee. Special events associated with the conference included a special Ottawa Public Library Speakers Series, an NAC opening night presentation by environmentalist Mark Angelo, an evening concert by Canadian singer Sarah Harmer, a Rivers Day paddle down the Ottawa River, and a Rendezvous gathering at the Canadian Museum of Civilization.



This last event was the setting for the banquet and the awards ceremony for the National River Conservation Awards of Merit and the Bill Mason National River Conservation Award. The three recipients of the National River Conservation Awards, which recognize outstanding contribution to river conservation in Canada, were:

- Larry George from the Cowichan Tribes, Kate Miller from the Cowichan Valley Regional District and Tom Rutherford from the British Columbia Conservation Foundation, Living Rivers Trust, who accepted the award in recognition of the Stoltz Bluff restoration project for the Cowichan River on Vancouver Island.
- David Boyce, CHR Board member for Prince Edward Island, who accepted the second award of merit on behalf of Don MacNeil, President of the Hillsborough River Association. Mr. MacNeil was recognized for his exceptional leadership, advocacy and volunteer work in raising public awareness and support for the Hillsborough Canadian Heritage River.

- Larry Morris, Tom Horn and Adrienne Blattel of the Quebec Labrador Foundation (QLF). The QLF was recognized for their work as one of eastern North America's most outstanding community-based stewardship organizations and as long-time champions of the CHRS and river conservation in Canada.

The Bill Mason National River Conservation Award was presented to Max Finkelstein, a paddler, adventurer, river conservationist and author who worked for over 25 years with Parks Canada, with most of his career being with the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. Max's ongoing commitment and contribution to Canada's river heritage were recognized with this award.

A final element of the awards night was the "Pass the Paddle" ceremony, with the 2009 River Heritage Conference Chairs symbolically handing over the hosting responsibilities to the team responsible for the next conference. David Boyce of Prince Edward Island accepted the ceremonial paddle on behalf of the Hillsborough River Association and the Three Rivers Heritage Association, who will host the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian River Heritage Conference in Charlottetown in 2012. 🍃



Parks Canada

Award recipients (left to right) Kate Miller, Tom Rutherford, Larry George, Adrienne Blattel, Tom Horn, Conference Co-Chair Doug Stewart, David Boyce and Max Finkelstein.

# River News

## Newfoundland and Labrador

### Main River

In August, 2009, the Main Canadian Heritage River received legislative protection with the establishment of the Main River Waterway Provincial Park under Newfoundland and Labrador's Provincial Parks Act. This 152 square kilometre waterway provincial park includes an additional 49 square kilometre special management area protected under the province's Lands Act. Furthermore, Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited, Kruger Inc., the major timber holder in the Main River watershed, contributed to the park's establishment by donating all timber rights in the park and agreed to carry out only selective harvesting in the adjacent special management area.

## Prince Edward Island

### Hillsborough River

Cruise ships were a common sight on the Hillsborough again this year, with 59,014 passengers and 26,563 crew members arriving on the 40 ships that came to Charlottetown this year. HMCS Queen Charlotte cadets conducted a river cleanup between the bridge and their docking facility. As part of the work, LT/CDR Phillip Mundy and the cadets were provided a presentation on the Hillsborough Canadian Heritage River and were thanked for their cleanup efforts.



Hillsborough River high tide at Schottfort, PEI.

Tourism PEI made a number of improvements to some of the tourism literature on the Hillsborough. *The Cycling Guide—Confederation Trail Guide* brochure now features a new write-up on both of P.E.I.'s Canadian Heritage Rivers, the Hillsborough and the Three Rivers. Efforts will continue to improve the representation of the Hillsborough Canadian Heritage River in various vacation guides for P.E.I. and Charlottetown in the coming year. Community watershed improvement programs were conducted on the Pisquid River, Wright's Creek, Hillsborough River (Head of Hillsborough) and the Town of Stratford in 2009. Over 400 people attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hillsborough River Eagle Festival at Mount Stewart on June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Nova Scotia

### Margaree River

Oil and natural gas exploration is being proposed for the Lake Ainslie area. Concerns are being raised over the possible effects of "fracking" on sub-surface water supplies. Nova Scotia Environment is conducting a pilot project to produce detailed digital mapping of the Northeast Margaree watershed. Mapping data, which will include information on catchment areas, available water resources, peak and minimum flows, will be a valuable tool for land use planning, bridge and culvert sizing, floodplain identification and protection, stream bank protection, etc.

Returning salmon numbers are holding their own, possibly as a result of the Greenland Conservation Agreement which suspends the commercial salmon fishery until 2013. The Atlantic Salmon Federation is conducting electronic tracking of smolt (young salmon) movements in various rivers from Quebec to Newfoundland. The data collected will provide better information on the movement, habitat utilization and survival of migrating salmon. The Atlantic Salmon Federation is conducting a socio-economic study on the recreational salmon fishery to determine its importance. The Margaree Salmon Association participated in a "kelt" (adult spring salmon) tracking program where two adult salmon were fitted with electronic transmitters and then released.

PEI Gov't Photo / Brian L. Simpson



The movements of the salmon in the Gulf of St. Lawrence were tracked through a system of receivers off shore. Stream bank stabilization has been conducted on the Margaree River and major tributaries.

## Shelburne River

The Shelburne River Wilderness Area gained legal protection under the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act* on May 1, 2009. Wilderness area status protects most of the lower Shelburne River, about 40 kilometres of river frontage. Upper parts of the river are already protected as they lie within Tobeatic Wilderness Area. Legal protection of land by the province prohibits development, forestry, and mining. Wilderness area designation can protect aspects of natural and cultural heritage, while providing a place for people to enjoy paddling, fishing, camping and other wilderness recreation activities.

## New Brunswick

### Upper Restigouche River

The Restigouche Salmon Convention was held April 30 to May 1, 2010. Other salmon news: a smolts wheel survey, a juvenile salmon survey and a spawners snorkel count were done by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Overuse of campsites continues to be a threat in the lower part of the Restigouche river, causing deterioration of the ground and trees mortalities. A new campsite was built at Two Brook (second night of the 3 day canoe trip route). A project developed with a RBC Blue Project funding and forest industry partners will address the impact of cuts distribution in sub-watershed by calculating Equivalent Cut area for all 1000ha and more watershed of the Restigouche system. This project will help to harmonize forestry management and watershed protection by analyzing impact on flow regime.

## St. Croix River

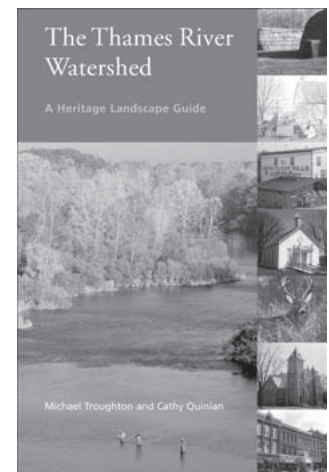
Additional campsites were established on the river to allow for 'one country' canoe trips on the St. Croix, in the absence of a US/Canada remote entry permit system. At local request, New Brunswick adopts a rural plan that prohibits future large-scale industrial quarries on the St. Croix estuary. The 20-year review of St. Croix management presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> Canadian River Heritage Conference in Ottawa. International Joint Commission sponsors a draft fisheries management plan for St. Croix alewife and smallmouth bass, seeking to resolve a longstanding fisheries dispute. GIS technology is developed for impervious surface (water runoff) mapping across the international watershed, to better evaluate, plan and manage the impact of land development on flooding and storm-water management, water quality and infrastructure sustainability. New international bridge opens in November, relieving traffic lineups in the two largest communities and enabling downtown revitalization.

## Ontario

### Thames River

In 2009, *The Thames River Watershed: A Heritage Landscape Guide* was published, providing information on the watershed's geography, wildlife, hydrology and cultural settlement, and highlighting 45 sites of interest to explore.

Two Children's Water Festivals were held in the watershed, one in the fall in the Lower Thames and one in the spring in the Upper Thames. The festivals draw hundreds of grade 3 to 6 students, engaging them in fun, hands-on activities that teach them about the importance of water, and how to conserve and preserve it. In early 2010 the Thames Talbot Land Trust secured, through donation, a 74-acre wetland property near the South Thames at Putnam, called the Five Points Wetland – Driedger Tract. Site improvements such as invasive species removal and foot trail development are underway with the help of local volunteer stewards.



## Grand River

In 2009, the Grand River Conservation Authority embarked on a collaborative update to the 1982 Grand River Basin Water Management Plan. The updated plan will give specific consideration to improvements to sustainable water supply, reduced flood damage potential, and improvements to water quality in order to maintain and improve the health of the Grand River and Lake Erie. The annual Heritage Day Workshop was held in February 2010 and was attended by over 200 people. The theme *Beyond 20/20 Vision: A New Lens for Arts, Culture and Heritage* stressed the interconnections among arts, culture and heritage and their importance to the health, prosperity and economic well-being of communities within the Grand River watershed and beyond. Special events held this year highlighting the need to conserve and protect the watershed's natural resources included Sunoco Earth Day, Waterloo Wellington Children's Water Festival and the Brantford-Brant Children's Water Festival.



Parks Canada

Humber River 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration:  
Doug Stewart (Parks Canada), Mayor David Miller,  
City of Toronto, Chief of Six Nations Arnie General,  
the Honourable Donna Cansfield, Government of Ontario,  
Gerri Lynn O'Connor, TRCA Board Chair.

## Bloodvein River (Ontario portion)

A Terms of Reference was completed describing the collaborative fire-vegetation management plan that will include the area along Bloodvein River. This plan will continue to work with area First Nations to incorporate Aboriginal Fire in the plan. An expansion of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park has been approved; regulation to include the addition is expected within 5 years. The text for the Bloodvein Heritage River Plaque was finalized – the project to complete the wording for the plaque involved Elders from Pikangikum and Lac Seul First Nations. The designated campsite system project got underway in the whole of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and will continue for the next few years. Using prescribed campsites will protect significant features in the park as well as the Bloodvein River.

## Humber River

On September 19, 2009 the Humber River celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its designation as a Canadian Heritage River, during a public celebration held along its shores in downtown Toronto. *The Carrying Place*, a picture book on the Humber River watershed, was published to commemorate the anniversary.

Profits from the sale of the book will be directed to protection and restoration projects along the Humber. Other community celebrations hosted by partners across the watershed included theatrical re-enactments, wildlife and archaeological demonstrations, native flora and fauna artwork displays, First Nations drumming and dancing, and local food. The Humber River Ten-Year Monitoring Report for the Canadian Heritage Rivers System was completed in October, 2009.

## French River

The French River Heritage designation continues to be profiled with local Aboriginal communities. In the fall of 2009, a Gathering of Elders brought approximately 80 Elders from five area First Nations and a number of Métis communities together with resource experts from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Canada to look at scientific and traditional knowledge focused on understanding and protecting the waters of the French River and Georgian Bay.



## Detroit River

Several public and/or private partnership reforestation projects were completed within the Detroit River watershed this year, with more than 50 acres of land restored, along with improvements to surface water quality, in all tributary watersheds. The Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) continued to maintain a central and coordinating role in the Friends of Turkey Creek and the Friends of Canard River in 2009-2010. Fifteen projects and activities were completed, including tree plantings, stream cleanups, interpretive events, and a fundraising dinner. A highlight for the Friends of Turkey Creek has been their Native Plant Demonstration Garden in LaSalle, implemented in partnership with the Town of LaSalle and with funding from the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup. A restoration and enhancement project was completed for the Turkey Creek and Grand Maris Drain. This project continues to reduce flooding risks for many residential, industrial and commercial areas. These improvements to the creek protect it from becoming re-contaminated and ensure it is capable of safely conveying a one-in-one-hundred-year storm event.

## Manitoba

### Red River

The Management Approach of the Red River is framed around Rivers West's goals and objectives that guide its activities in working to fulfill its mandate and vision as well as the mission statement for managing

the Red as a Canadian Heritage River. In 2009-2010, the Red River continued to offer excellent natural heritage, recreational, and cultural opportunities to river users. Most of the river corridor has recovered from the impacts of the 2007 flood when several regions along the river were inundated by the deluge, severely affecting the flora and fauna, and altering habitat. Rivers West was instrumental in organizing several initiatives linked to the river's natural heritage and recreational values. 2009-2010 projects included the St. Avila School Phase 1 School Ground Greening project, as well as Operation clean-up, which occurs on an annual basis. These activities are in line with Rivers West's mandate to direct conservation, education, and stewardship initiatives for the development of the Red River Greenway. Also In 2009-2010, the \$100,000 trailheads project in Winnipeg was completed, offering both recreational and interpretive opportunities to river users. Other projects continued in this fiscal year include the Ste-Agathe Recreational complex and Rosenort Trail Development (both in-progress), and the Regional Municipality of St. Clements Destination Strategy. Rivers West is additionally mandated to develop and implement strategies focused on the development, promotion, and management of the cultural and heritage resources of the Red River. To this end, the archaeological work started in 2008-2009 at the Forks in Winnipeg was completed in 2009-2010, in addition to a concept plan for a Kenosowen Aboriginal Site in Lockport.

### Bloodvein River (Manitoba portion)

The Bloodvein River in Atikaki Provincial Park is a premier wilderness canoe route. Use on the river remained more or less consistent with previous years with no perceptible changes in environmental quality. Water levels were exceptionally high this year, resulting at times in a slight drop in usage due to the hazardous conditions. The boundary of the Bloodvein Heritage River corridor is anticipated to be adjusted to accommodate the construction of a bridge across the river. A road is being constructed to provide all-weather access to First Nation communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The proposed road includes a bridge across the Bloodvein at a point just within the boundary of Atikaki Provincial Park. The park boundary marks the western limit of the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River corridor.



Red River – Esplanade Riel pedestrian bridge.

iStockphoto

The boundary will be adjusted to accommodate the bridge and the road meaning the designated river corridor will be shortened by 64 metres. A number of research activities have been initiated or underway for some time to further ensure visitors are experiencing pristine wilderness canoeing along the river. In 2009, a canoe route survey was distributed among canoeists. The intent of the survey is to monitor visitor experiences over the long term, so that any erosion of that experience can be detected and remedial management actions taken. Pursuant to the establishment of the Interprovincial Wilderness Area in 2008, both Manitoba and Ontario continue to work together to manage Atikaki Provincial Park and Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. In the summer of 2009, work was begun on a series of posters of the Canadian Heritage Rivers in Manitoba to help disseminate information to the public. The Bloodvein River poster was crafted collaboratively, with input from both provinces. The poster highlights the features for which the river was originally nominated to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

## Saskatchewan

### Clearwater River (Saskatchewan portion)

In March 2010 a report was produced by Dr. David Meyer, of the University of Saskatchewan, on heritage sites in the upper reaches of the Clearwater River Provincial Park. This report detailed a 2009 canoe trip during which Dr. Meyer photographed and recorded archaeological and rock painting sites. Oil sands development in Saskatchewan is an issue of growing concern; currently, only exploratory work has been completed in the province.

## Alberta

### Clearwater River (Alberta portion)

Along the Alberta section of the Clearwater, pollution due to the oil sands threatened the river. Thanks to the Clearwater Heritage River Society, who emphasized the importance of this Canadian Heritage River with the oil companies, almost all have agreed to restrict their drilling activities to stay outside the 100 meter setback from the top of the bank, as stated in the Management Plan.

## British Columbia

### Fraser River

Numerous B.C. Rivers Day celebrations were held in communities throughout lower reaches of the Fraser. The river experienced a very low sockeye salmon run in 2009, with the official count of only 1.7 million fish. Habitat loss along banks of Fraser continues due to urban development, agriculture, forest harvesting and the impacts of the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic. The Fraser River Ten-Year Monitoring Report for the Canadian Heritage Rivers System was completed in March, 2010.

### Cowichan River

In January 2010, the Cowichan Watershed Board was created with a mission to promote wise water management practices throughout the watershed by advocating for the well-being of the watershed; providing timely, balanced and thoughtful advice to First Nations, federal, provincial and local government; engaging local stakeholders in water management decisions; gathering information on and monitoring the health of the watershed; and developing outreach and educational tools to enhance watershed thinking. Board members include representatives selected from the Cowichan Tribes, the Cowichan Valley Regional District, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and British Columbia's Ministry of Environment. The Cowichan River Hatchery, which is a partnership between the Cowichan Tribes and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, continued its work to raise the wild salmon stock in the river this year.

## Yukon

### Thirty Mile Section of the Yukon River

The Historic Sites Unit of Yukon Parks did some stabilization work, site documentation and recording at Hootalinqua (an abandoned gold rush-era settlement) during the 2009 operating season. The Telegraph office roof cladding was replaced and its porch stabilized and repaired. Detailed interior recording of the Telegraph office was completed and records were created of some historical shipping assets at Shipyard Island. No land use permits were issued for the designated area and mineral claim staking is stable.



Ken Madsen

Bonnet Plume River.

## Bonnet Plume River

Significant progress was made on the Peel Watershed land use planning process this year. This planning process, which captures the entire Bonnet Plume watershed, including the Snake and Wind rivers, will be complimentary to the Bonnet Plume's CHR status. As a result of the Peel Watershed planning process, a one-year moratorium (February 2010 – February 2011) on new mineral staking was implemented.

## Tatshenshini River

During the summer of 2009 visitor use (day and multi-day use) continued at or near historic levels. During 2009, work continued on developing the interpretive panels for the Pringle Tower road pull-off. This site overlooks the river's valley and will be a wonderful addition to the official CHRS plaque at this location.

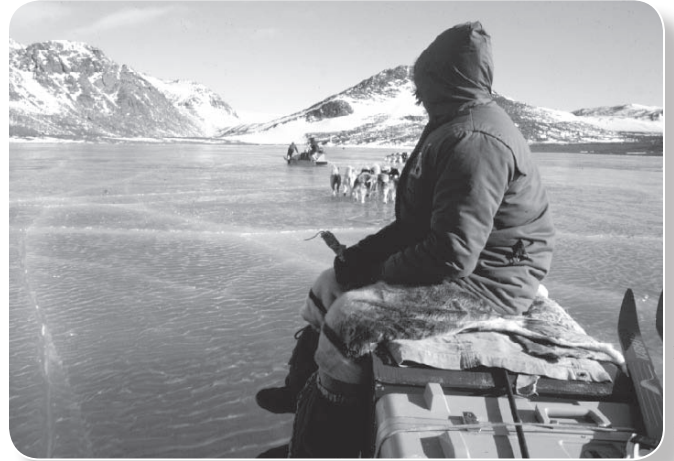
## Northwest Territories

### Arctic Red River

The heritage values for which the Arctic Red were nominated to the CHRS remain intact. A more complete report on the river will be provided in the 2010-2011 Annual Report.

## Nunavut

Designated Heritage Rivers in Nunavut include the **Soper River**, the **Thelon River** and the **Kazan River**; the Coppermine River has also been nominated to the system. The Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement negotiations process is ongoing for these Canadian Heritage Rivers. A further report on the status of these rivers will be provided once an Agreement has been signed.



Nunavut Tourism

Dogteam on Soper Lake.

## Parks Canada

### Kicking Horse River

In 2010, a new management plan for Yoho National Park was approved, which replaces the 2000 plan. The Ottertail Flats and Leancoil Marsh, the two largest montane wetlands on the Kicking Horse River, have been designated as Zone I – Special Preservation Areas in the Yoho National Park Management Plan 2010. These areas were previously identified as environmentally sensitive sites, and the Zone I designation strengthens recognition of the important value of these habitats. The 2010 management plan also includes direction to engage paddlers in exploring ways to improve access to the river for canoeing and kayaking. This addresses a concern that one of the traditional access points at the confluence of the Amiskwi River is no longer accessible by motor vehicle due to the closure of the tertiary access road. The new management plan also aims to raise the profile of cultural heritage along the Kicking Horse corridor, in part by



developing and promoting the concept of the *Kicking Horse Pass to the Last Spike Cultural Landscape*. A new wastewater treatment plant for Emerald Lake Lodge came on-stream in 2009, which should lead to improved water quality in the Emerald River, a tributary of the Kicking Horse.

### South Nahanni River

The Greater Nahanni Ecosystem is a huge and pristine northern landscape – an area of 39,000 km<sup>2</sup> that includes the entire watershed of the South Nahanni River. Until June 2009, Nahanni National Park Reserve covered an area of 4,766 km<sup>2</sup>, and encompassed only the lower reaches of the South Nahanni River. Parks Canada and Deh Cho First Nations worked together to expand the park, which as of June 2009, protects 30,000 km<sup>2</sup> of spectacular mountain terrain, unique geological landforms and crucial wildlife habitat. Protecting many of the tributaries to the South Nahanni River, the new boundary encompasses the entire watersheds of Caribou River, Clearwater Creek, Cathedral Creek, Rabbitkettle River, Meilleur River, Irvine Creek and more. Most of this area lies within the Deh Cho Region of the Northwest Territories, but about one sixth of the area, the headwaters of the South Nahanni River, is in the Sahtu Dene and Métis Settlement Area. Parks Canada is working with the Sahtu Dene and Métis of the Tulita District to establish Naats'ich'oh National Park Reserve to protect the headwaters of the South Nahanni River. In conjunction with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, research into the movements and habitat use of bull trout occurred this year, primarily in Prairie Creek and its tributary streams. Planning and assessment has commenced to develop new visitor experience opportunities in Nahanni National Park Reserve. The Cantung mine site, which is situated on the Flat River, re-started production in October 2010. The Flat River is a major tributary of the South Nahanni River.

### Rideau River

The *Rideau Corridor Forum for the Future* was held in November 2009 and brought together an estimated 200 canal enthusiasts to talk about the importance of the broader Rideau Corridor, how it can be protected, and the role participants have in making this strategy effective. The forum also provides local citizens, partners and stakeholders the opportunity to share ideas on how the land along the Rideau corridor is used. The

Rideau Canal Festival, a community based, non-profit event celebrating the Rideau Canal, canal heritage and the communities that have been shaped by the canal was held for the second time in 2009 in downtown Ottawa, Ontario. A Boating Safety campaign was undertaken in partnership with the Ottawa Police Service, the Ontario Provincial Police, Friends of the Rideau, the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron, the Ontario Marine Operators Association and Parks Canada, with the goal of protecting wildlife, reducing shoreline erosion and offering safe and high quality experiences to visitors that use the Rideau Canal. Capital funds of approximately \$300,000 were invested to repair various heritage buildings along the Rideau Corridor including Kingston Mills and Narrows Blockhouses.

### Alsek River

A recovery strategy for Baikal sedge (a threatened species under Canada's *Species at Risk Act*) which is found along the Alsek River is underway as part of a 3-year initiative for the surrounding area where the species is found. 2010 saw the 70 km-long Lowell Glacier begin surging sometime over the winter of 2009-2010. The southern lobe of the glacier terminus advanced over 1 km over the winter. Calving from the Lowell's ice front produced lots of floating ice in Lowell Lake which made rafting across the lake even more challenging than normal. Monitoring of the surging and calving activity at the terminus of the Lowell was undertaken through a collaborative effort between Kluane National Park and Reserve, the Yukon Geological Survey (YGS), the U.S. Geological Survey, and the University of Ottawa.



Alsek River.

Parks Canada

## Nominations and Designations

### Supplementary Designations

A proposal to extend Ontario's Boundary Waters-Voyageur Waterway to include the 'Kaministiquia route' is being prepared. A background research summary and supporting maps will be completed by the fall of 2010.

A new Management Plan for Nahanni National Park Reserve (NWT) was approved in June 2010. This document sets management direction and priorities for a five-year period. The plan includes a key action for Parks Canada to "work with appropriate governments and organizations to expand recognition of the Canadian Heritage River to include the length of the South Nahanni River" in the next five years.

### New Nominations and Designations

A two-year moratorium on new nominations to the CHRS has been lifted with the Board's approval of the "gap analysis," or national policy paper, titled *Building a Comprehensive and Representative CHRS*. Subsequent to the tabling of this report at the June 2010 Board meeting, river nominations that meet the criteria for completing the system are now being prepared.

Progress continues toward nominating Canada's biggest river, the Mackenzie, to the CHRS. The Steering Committee for the Nomination of the Mackenzie River to the CHRS continues to oversee the compilation and synthesis of heritage resource information, focusing primarily on the river's natural and cultural values within the Deh Cho, Sahtu and Gwich'in territories, including the cultural history of the Metis. This information is being compiled into a Background Study, the first major step on the course towards nomination.

Background studies have been completed for the Upper Saint Lawrence River (from Kingston to the Ontario border with Quebec) and for the South Saskatchewan River in Saskatchewan. Nominations for both of these rivers are being prepared for May 2011.

## Ten-Year Monitoring Reports

Rivers designated as Canadian Heritage Rivers are monitored regularly through the implementation of an approved management plan to ensure their original nomination values are maintained. Any changes to a river's heritage, its integrity values, such as its water quality, or any related activities, issues or management actions that could affect these values should be known. Every ten years following the designation of a river as a Canadian Heritage River, the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board requires that the managing jurisdiction prepare a comprehensive report detailing the state of the river and the status of plan implementation. This monitoring determines whether a river will continue to merit designation.

During the 2009-2010 year, there were three rivers that had 10-year monitoring reports submitted, including:

- the Humber River (Ontario)
- the Mattawa River (Ontario; 20-year report)
- the Fraser River (British Columbia)

Completion and review of the Clearwater River 10-Year Monitoring Report is still pending. Work on the 20-Year Monitoring Reports for the Athabasca River in Jasper National Park, the North Saskatchewan River in Banff National Park, and the Kicking Horse River in Yoho National Park was commenced late in 2009-2010. The reports will be finalized in 2010-2011 for presentation to the Board in 2011.

For more information on 10-year monitoring reports, please contact the Canadian Heritage Rivers Secretariat.

## For more information

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

Canadian Heritage Rivers Secretariat  
Parks Canada Agency  
25 Eddy Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Gatineau QC K1A 0M5  
Tel: 819 997-4930  
Fax: 819 994-5140  
E-mail: [andrea.mcneil@pc.gc.ca](mailto:andrea.mcneil@pc.gc.ca)  
Website: [www.chrs.ca](http://www.chrs.ca)