

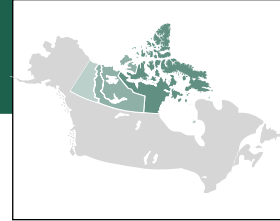
New Parks North

An annual progress report on natural and cultural heritage initiatives in Northern Canada.

March 2005

www.newparksnorth.org

Newsletter 14



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 to 10 First Nation Final Agreements: Champagne and Aishihik, Vuntut Gwitchin, Nacho Nyak Dun, Teslin Tlingit Council, Little Salmon/Carmacks, Selkirk, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Ta'An Kwäch'an, and Kluane. Kwanlin Dun First Nation members ratified their final and self-government agreements in November 2004. The effective date is targeted for early spring

2005. The Kwanlin Dun Final Agreement contains provisions for two new Special Management Areas that include Kusawa Lake as a territorial park and Lewes Marsh as a wetland Habitat Protection Area. The development of a Yukon territorial park system must follow or complement the land claims process. Four First Nation claims remain to be finalized.

The *Tłı̨cho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement* was signed on 25 August 2003 in Rae-Edzo (Behchokò), NWT, and received Royal Assent on 15 February 2005. Government and the Dehcho First Nations have signed a Framework Agreement and an Interim Measures Agreement. These Agreements mark significant steps in the Deh Cho Process toward negotiating a final agreement. The Northwest

Territory Métis Nation is currently working with government toward an agreement-in-principal. 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.

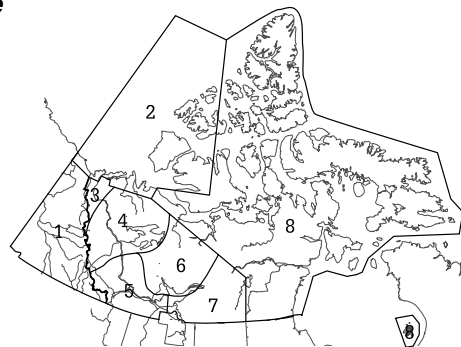
The *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992)* and the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1993)* address natural areas, wildlife and heritage conservation issues. Three national historic sites have been designated within these claim areas.

Within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, approximately 18% 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.

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Yukon, NWT and Nunavut Land Claim Settlement Regions

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* Overlap exists in claim areas

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The *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (1993)* provides a process for the establishment of national parks, territorial parks and conservation areas in Nunavut. Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements must be concluded for all existing territorial parks and for management

plans for all existing parks and conservation areas.

Further information on the above land claim agreements may be found at the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada site at www.inac.gc.ca, by following the links through the Site Map to Publications and Research;

Agreements; Comprehensive Claims Agreements.

New Parks North has been organized by claim area or settlement region. These areas are indicated on the map on the front page.

Judi Cozzetto, Editor

Aboriginal Land Claims

Editor's Note: The following article was compiled from several government sources and is updated yearly. It is included here to provide a brief introduction to Aboriginal land claims for persons not familiar with them.

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 people 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-fulfilment of Indian treaties and other lawful obligations, or the improper administration of lands and other

assets under the *Indian Act* or formal agreements.

An unnamed third category of claims has since been 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 definitions 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 people. 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* 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 time 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 fulfilment 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.

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 Dehcho First Nations (DFN) requested the establishment of a Deh Cho Territory and their own process to deal with the Crown. The Deh Cho Process is the governance, lands and resources negotiations among federal and territorial governments and the DFN. Negotiations have resulted in a Framework Agreement and an Interim Measures Agreement. The Framework Agreement sets out the scope, process, topics and parameters for negotiation of an agreement-in-principle and a final agreement. The Interim Measures Agreement provides for participation of the DFN 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 withdrawals and the negotiation of a resource development agreement.

DFN and Parks Canada formed the Nahą Dehé Consensus Team (NDCT); a team of seven people consisting of two appointees by DFN, two appointees by the Nahanni Butte Dene Band, and three appointees by Parks Canada. The NDCT has completed an Ecological Integrity Statement and reviewed the Park Management Plan for Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada. The team is now assisting the DFN and the Band with the development of traditional renewable resource harvesting protocols, the development of Aboriginal tourism, and other community and economic development options. The Consensus Team operates according to an interim park management arrangement between Parks Canada and the DFN, under which the team may make recommendations to the Superintendent and Grand Chief on management of the park reserve.

Northwest Territory Métis Nation

In 2002, this group, formally known as the South Slave Métis Tribal Council, changed its name to the Northwest Territory Métis Nation.

When the *Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* failed to be ratified by a majority of the Aboriginal people of the Mackenzie Valley in 1990, the federal government decided to enter into region claims in this part of the NWT. However, in the South Slave District, the Akaitcho Treaty 8 Dene opted to seek fulfilment of their treaty land entitlements rather than enter into a regional comprehensive land claim. This left some Métis in the area without a vehicle to press for their concerns. The then Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development offered to enter into a non-rights based process with the Métis of the South Slave District to deal with 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, negotiation of self-government issues. Negotiations toward an agreement-in-principle are continuing.

Akaitcho Treaty 8

In 2000, negotiations began between government and the approximately 2,000 Akaitcho Treaty 8 Dene who assert traditional use of lands primarily south and east of Great Slave Lake, and north-easterly as far as the Nunavut boundary. After a break in 2002, negotiations resumed in January 2003, with emphasis on lands and governance issues and are ongoing.

Tłı̨cho

The *Tłı̨cho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement* received Royal Assent on 15 February 2005. Arising out of the failed *Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim*

Agreement, this *Agreement* is the first combined land claim and self-government agreement in the NWT and is the product of over 10 years of negotiations. Once in effect, a new

Tłı̨cho Government will succeed the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and Indian bands in the Tłı̨cho communities. The Tłı̨cho Government will have law making powers to manage

Tłı̨cho land and resources, and to protect the language, culture and way of life.

Council for Yukon First Nations Claims Areas

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency – National Parks

Healing Broken Connections

Using special ecological integrity priority funding, Parks Canada has developed a significant four year program in partnership with Kluane First Nation and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations to improve the ecological integrity of Kluane National Park and Reserve.

The absence of Aboriginal people from the park, as a result of the creation of Kluane Game Sanctuary in 1943, has been an impairment to the park's ecological values.

The "Healing Broken Connections" project addresses several other issues:

- the understanding of knowledge systems that guide decisions regarding the management of the park;
- land use outside the park that is expanding and exerting increased pressure on the ecosystems inside; and
- respectful use of traditional knowledge.

It is expected that the project will achieve a number of the following objectives:

- Management of traditional knowledge information of the two First Nations.
- Reintegration of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Kluane First Nation to Kluane National Park and Reserve using ethno history work and trail recording to capture vital information. Culture camps for First Nation youth and

other community gatherings in the park will contribute to the transfer of traditional knowledge. The first such culture camp, organized by Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, was held at Kathleen Lake in August 2004.

- Building a respectful relationship with the First Nations involved in the park through joint governance of this project, and the development of protocols for traditional knowledge and information sharing.
- Communicating traditional knowledge by creating information products such as stories about the people, the land and the trails in the park, and targeting various audiences to increase their awareness, understanding and support.

First Nations will return to the park to exercise their traditional practises. Working closely with the First Nations, Parks Canada will integrate traditional knowledge into the park ecosystem management.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Yukon Chapter

Introduction

Through 2004 the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Yukon Chapter continued pursuing conservation goals in the Yukon Territory and the mountain boreal forest with the support of First Nations, Parks Canada, planning boards and councils, communities and the general public. Work focused on reducing the area available for oil

and gas exploration prior to land use planning, and preventing exploration in candidate protected areas.

Peel River Watershed

Work continued toward a core protected area over the Snake River valley, in addition to conservation and land use planning throughout the Peel River Watershed. The Peel Watershed Atlas was completed in 2004 and was submitted to the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Planning Commission early in 2005. The Commission began working on land and resource planning for the region in late 2004.

Southeast Yukon

As part of the Kaska Conservation Initiative, the Yukon Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) drafted a conservation values assessment of two large areas of interest in the upper Beaver and Coal River drainage. Discussions on the national park proposal at Wolf Lake within Natural Region #7 continued and a study of potential economic impacts was commissioned. CPAWS continues to participate actively in the southeast Yukon forest management planning process.

Other boreal forest work included projects on woodland caribou, the threat of roads and other access, a proposal for a habitat protection area for the Little Rancheria caribou herd, and a Yellowstone 2 Yukon-sponsored research project on glaciofluvial landforms as elements of connectivity in the Liard Basin.

Government of Yukon – Department of the Environment

Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area

Ddhaw Ghro is the Northern Tutchone name for the area formerly known as McArthur Wildlife Sanctuary. Ddhaw Ghro is dominated by Grey Hunter Peak. The surrounding hillsides support a population of Fannin sheep, a unique colour variation of the Dall's sheep. Important mineral licks and hot springs are included in the protected area.

Ddhaw Gro has been identified as a Special Management Area under the Nacho Nyak Dun and Selkirk First Nations final agreements. A Steering Committee consisting of members nominated by these two First Nations and the Yukon Government is preparing a management plan for Ddhaw Ghro. The plan will undergo public consultation and be referred to the parties for approval in 2005. Upon approval of the management plan Ddhaw Ghro will be designated a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*.

Horseshoe Slough Habitat Protection Area

Horseshoe Slough is an important waterfowl breeding and staging area in the traditional territory of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun in central Yukon. The area comprises Horseshoe Slough, an old oxbow of the Stewart River, and the lower portion of Nogold Creek, including the numerous shallow ponds within its valley.

Horseshoe Slough was identified because of the emphasis on wildlife and cultural values in the Special Management Area chapter of the *First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun Final Agreement*. Working together, the Mayo District Renewable Resources Council, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Government of Yukon prepared a management

plan for Horseshoe Slough. In 2001, the Yukon Environment Minister approved the plan and designated Horseshoe Slough as a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*. The plan will be reviewed in 2006.

L'hutsaw Wetland Habitat Protection Area

L'hutsaw Wetlands (formerly Von Wilczek Lakes) is an important wetland complex for shorebirds, duck staging, nesting and moulting along the North Klondike Highway, south of Pelly Crossing. It has been identified as a Special Management Area under the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement* and is predominantly Selkirk First Nation Settlement Land.

A steering committee of members nominated by the Selkirk First Nation and the Yukon Government has completed and submitted a management plan for L'hutsaw Wetlands, with approval expected early in 2005. Upon approval the L'hutsaw Wetlands will be designated a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*. The plan will be reviewed in five years.

Ni'iinlii' Njik (Fishing Branch) Protected Areas

The Fishing Branch River and its tributaries, located in the North Ogilvie Mountains upstream of Old Crow, form the basis of this 6,000 km² protected area. The area is made up of four units – a parcel of Vuntut Gwitchin Settlement Land, two territorial parks, including an Ecological Reserve and Wilderness Preserve, and a territorial Habitat Protection Area. In accordance with the *Vuntut Gwitchin Final Agreement*, the areas are managed as an ecological unit to protect the Fishing Branch River and a population of grizzly bears that congregate there each year.

In 1999, a joint management plan for the settlement land and Ecological Reserve was approved. A committee of managing agencies was established to provide advice on implementation and review of the management plan. The committee recommended that a wildlife viewing facility and its staff be relocated to a new site to improve safety and reduce environmental impacts. Construction of the facility,



Fishing Branch – Bear Cave Mountain

consisting of a ranger/cook cabin, four tent frames, an outhouse and a wash house, was completed in the fall of 2004.

Also underway is the development of a bear risk management plan and a potential commercial bear viewing program, as provided for in the management plan.

A joint management plan for the larger Wilderness Preserve and Habitat Protection Area surrounding the settlement lands and Ecological Reserve was approved in 2004. No further development is identified for these remote areas.

Nordenskiold Wetland Habitat Protection Area (T'sawnjek Chu)

The Nordenskiold River valley south of Carmacks is a major wetland complex and an important waterfowl staging and nesting area. It has been identified as a Special Management Area under the *Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation Final Agreement* and is entirely on settlement land.

A Steering Committee made up of members nominated by the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and the Yukon Government has prepared a draft management plan to be reviewed by the parties. Approval of the plan and designation as a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act* are expected in 2005.

Old Crow Flats Special Management Area

Old Crow Flats is the Yukon's largest wetland complex and is an internationally recognized site through the Ramsar Convention. Located on the Old Crow River system north of the Arctic Circle, the Flats contain more than 2,000 ponds and marshes ranging in size from one-half to 4,700 hectares. The area is an important breeding and moulting ground for 500,000 water birds. Waterfowl, muskrats and other wildlife of the Flats are of great importance to Vuntut Gwitchin.

Under the terms of the *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement*, the southern part of the Old Crow Flats Special Management Area (SMA) will be managed under the guidance of a management plan and a designation yet to be determined. The northern part was included in Vuntut National Park of Canada and a management plan specific to the park has been completed. The focus of the Old Crow Flats SMA will be to maintain the area as one ecological unit with the conservation of fish, wildlife and their habitats, and the continuation of traditional use by Vuntut Gwitchin as guiding principles. Discussions are underway between the Government of Yukon and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation regarding the management planning and designation for the area.

Pickhandle Lakes Habitat Protection Area

Pickhandle Lakes is an important wetland complex for waterfowl staging, nesting and moulting. The area was identified under the *Kluane First Nation Final Agreement* as a Special Management Area. It is also listed under the not yet ratified

White River First Nation Final Agreement (WRFNFA). Management planning will begin in five years or upon approval of the WRFNFA, whichever happens first, and Pickhandle Lakes will be designated as a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*.

Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area

Ta'tla Mun (formerly Tatlain Lake) is an important food fish lake southeast of Pelly Crossing in the traditional territory of the Selkirk First Nation. It also has a reputation as a high quality fly-in sport fishing lake. Ta'tla Mun was identified as a Special Management Area under the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement*. A Steering Committee made up of members nominated by the Yukon and Selkirk governments developed a management plan for the Ta'tla Mun, with public involvement. The plan was approved by the parties in 2002 and will be reviewed in 2007.

Tombstone Territorial Park

Tombstone officially became a territorial park in the fall of 2004 and is designated a Natural Environment Park in accordance with the



Pickhandle Lakes

©Paris Branch, Government of Yukon

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation Final Agreement (1998).

The 2,164 km² park is located along the Dempster Highway where it crosses the Pacific-Arctic Divide and where arctic tundra and boreal forest meet. This diverse landscape supports a rich natural and cultural history and spectacular scenery, making it a popular destination for hikers and other travellers in the Yukon.

A draft management plan for Tombstone Park was completed in 2003. While consensus was reached on most points, a few issues remain to be resolved between the Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in governments before it will be considered for approval.

Work is proceeding with the design of the new visitor interpretive centre, which is scheduled for development adjacent to the Tombstone campground.

Tourism and Culture – Heritage Resources Unit

Forty Mile

In July 2004, the forest fires that devastated much of the Yukon wilderness came within a kilometre of claiming the historic town site of Forty Mile. With the assistance of a Parks Canada fire management crew; in the area to protect structures at the Dawson City Historic Complex; pumps and equipment were brought to the site and sprinklers were set up to cover several historic buildings and the cemetery.

A maintenance crew was hired by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation to continue to clear the site of dense brush and thin out trees. This has opened the site up, as it was historically, for ease of viewing and reduces the susceptibility to fire. 2004 also saw additional restoration work carried out on the historic North-West Mounted Police building and Anglican Church.



©Dennis Kuch, Parks Branch, Government of Yukon

Tombstone Camp

Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site is co-owned and co-managed by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Han Nation and the Yukon Government under terms of the First Nation's Final Land Claim Agreement.

Fort Selkirk

Restoration and maintenance work as well as interpretation activities continued at Fort Selkirk over the summer of 2004. Work began on the replacement of the foundation and flooring system at the



©Heritage Resources, Government of Yukon, 2004

Sprinkler system at the North-West Mounted Police buildings

Big Jonathan House, which is one of two buildings used as Interpretive Centres. There are over 40 historic structures standing along a one kilometre stretch of river terrace at Fort Selkirk, all in need of constant monitoring and maintenance. A craftsman was engaged to provide carpentry training to the restoration crew. The work crew and interpretive staff were hired by the Selkirk First Nation through a contribution agreement with the Yukon Government.

Sponsored by Tourism and Culture, in conjunction with the Selkirk First Nation, the First Nations Investment Group and Great River Journey, an Elder Host Demo Day was held in August 2004. The event included music and storytelling, with a number of Elders demonstrating traditional skills, such as fish and wild game preparation and smoking, skinning, moose nose singeing, drum making and stick gambling. The audience was a selected group of Yukon tourism industry and First Nation representatives. This pilot program is an example of a potential tourism product that other First Nations can develop.

Fort Selkirk Historic Site is co-owned and co-managed by the Selkirk First Nation and the Yukon Government under terms of the First Nation's Final Land Claim Agreement.



Mrs. Lizzy Hager preparing fish for smoking



Relocated Herschel Island buildings (left to right – hunters and travellers cabin; Canada Customs Warehouse; Northern Whaling and Trading Co. Store)

Herschel Island

In July 2004, historic buildings were moved at the Pauline Cove settlement area. The moves have been made in an attempt to save the structures from the effects of shoreline erosion.

Although moved in 2003, the Northern Whaling and Trading Co. Store was moved again when it became obvious that it had not been moved far enough to avoid a continued undermining of its foundation by seawater. To accommodate the relocation, the Canada Customs Warehouse and a cabin constructed in the 1980s for the use of hunters and travellers also had to be moved.

The store is approximately 10 metres east of its original location. If the receding shore threatens again it will be time to make a decision on the practicality of re-locating and re-organizing the settlement buildings. The settlement contains a dozen historic structures dating back to 1892 and the American whaling period which are the oldest standing frame buildings in Yukon. The area also holds archaeological evidence

of historic and prehistoric Inuit dwellings.

The settlement area is on a spit of land barely above sea level. Whether it is a long-term phenomenon or a temporary anomaly, the geomorphology of Herschel Island has evolved rapidly over the last decade. Summer meltwater patterns have changed threatening hundreds of graves, and coastal flooding from encroaching seawater has increased.

Herschel Island Territorial Park was created through the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*.

Original Telegraph Office, Dawson City

The final phase of rehabilitation and restoration work has been completed on the Original Telegraph Office in Dawson City. The structure was the first designed and built by Thomas Fuller at the turn of the 20th century. Fuller went on to follow in his father's footsteps as Chief Dominion Architect. His architectural legacy in Dawson City also includes the Commissioner's Residence, Court House, Post Office, and Old Territorial Administration Building –

all impressive heritage landmarks.

The Original Telegraph Office has been converted for residential use, with several of the ground floor rooms restored for interpretive purposes. Architecturally the building features a central octagonal bay tower and interior finishes, including patterned wood panelling on the walls and ceilings.

Rampart House

Restoration of the historic buildings at Rampart House Historic Site continued in the summer of 2004. Preparations on the Cadzow House have been made for raising the building and replacing the foundation and flooring system in 2005. The house is a two storey log building, with logs hewn square and fitted together in a *piece sur piece* style. Members of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation from Old Crow worked under the guidance of a log restoration specialist to cut and hew replacement members.

Rampart House Historic Site is co-owned and co-managed by the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the Yukon Government under terms of the First Nation's Final Land Claim Agreement.

Historic Places Initiative

Yukon is collaborating with the federal government on the national Historic Places Initiative (HPI). The objective is to "improve the state of conservation in Canada and increase Canadians' access to and understanding of their heritage by actively engaging them in its preservation." Further information can be found at

www.historicplaces.ca.

Through a HPI Class Contribution Agreement, Parks Canada is assisting Yukon to achieve full participation in the program. The three main objectives of the Agreement are:

- to provide support for the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP) and for the



Original Telegraph Office, Dawson City

development and dissemination of the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*;

- to integrate the Yukon Historic Sites Inventory (YHSI) to the CRHP; and
- to engage the public in heritage conservation and make them aware of government programs that can assist them.

Yukon's efforts have been directed toward increasing the quantity of sites and data listed in the YHSI, and improving the quality of information. A number of projects were undertaken to add information to the Yukon historic places database. Broadening the knowledge base will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the range of Yukon's historic places and



Hewing logs for the Cadzow House

their unique values, and facilitate a more rational evaluation of their significance.

Several inventory initiatives were assisted through the HPI, including: the documentation of the abandoned mining operations in the Keno Hill area in central Yukon; research in support of the Yukon Air Crash Sites Inventory; and the importance of the Second World War in Yukon's history as reflected in the residential development of Whitehorse as it grew to become the new capital.

HPI funds also assisted in the creation of a digitized historic sites photo database. The YHSI is now accessible to researchers online and access may be gained by contacting the Yukon Historic Sites Registrar at barbara.hogan@gov.yk.ca.

Rat Indian Creek/Van Tat Gwich'in Teechik

The Rat Indian Creek region has a rich archaeological record reflecting the history of land use by Gwich'in people of the Middle Porcupine River drainage in North Yukon. Work undertaken in 2004 focused on the high terraces of the Porcupine River where four localities have been identified as having evidence of semi-subterranean house construction. Pit houses are a rare and poorly documented feature in the prehistoric record of Yukon and appear to be confined to the Gwich'in territory of northern Yukon.

The investigations documented five semi-subterranean houses and one possible underground meat cache, dating approximately 900 to 700 before present (BP). A previously excavated house pit at Old Chief Creek on the Porcupine River, several kilometres above Old Crow, was dated 1850 BP. The association of house pits with caribou interception localities suggests these habitations were constructed when a very good supply of caribou meat was assured, enabling a group to overwinter in one place.

The archaeological investigations



Terrace overlooking Porcupine River near Rat Indian Creek

at Rat Indian Creek were a joint project of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Yukon Heritage Resources.

Towata Lake

For many generations, Towata Lake has been an important area to the Selkirk First Nation (SFN) for its fall whitefish fishery and winter fishing of northern pike, whitefish and lake trout. A preliminary survey and investigation in 2004 documented the historic and archaeological resources at the site of the old village at and around

the lake, and assisted the SFN in identifying resource management and protection issues and priorities.

Elders worked with the SFN Heritage Office to document the history of Towata Lake and assisted archaeologists in locating cabins and graves. A total of five prehistoric occupation sites were identified, with sites at the lake outlet indicating occupation related to some of the oldest cultures of Yukon, likely predating 5,000 years ago.

The Towata Lake investigations were a joint project of the SFN and Yukon Heritage Resources.



Overlooking Towata Lake

Parks Canada in Schools

Parks Canada has hired Education Specialists across the country to work on creating and demonstrating materials and programs that are teacher-tested and approved, curriculum based, student focused, and classroom-ready. The “*Parks Canada in Schools*” program is committed to providing the Canadian educational system with high quality educational materials and programs based on the curriculum.

The Education Specialist, Northern Canada, and a team of northern Parks Canada employees view education as a community relations tool – a way to connect with communities through youth. Known as the Pan Northern Group, they meet once a year to plan and implement local outreach education programs and provide input into the national Pan



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Pan Northern Group: (left to right) Gerry Kisoun, Elise Maltin, Natalie Bourke, Sophie Borcoman, Pauline Scott, Mike Keizer – (missing) Pat Dunn, Dan VerHalle, Laura Gorecki

Canadian education initiative.

Focus in 2004/05 was on the Yukon. A workshop in Whitehorse brought together educators, resource developers and consultants to look at

ways of working and partnering on education initiatives. To find out more about this new national program see Parks Canada’s web site at www.pc.gc.ca/education.

Gwich'in Settlement Area



Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

Clothing Exhibits

An exhibit is currently being developed by the Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC) in partnership with the Gwich'in Social Cultural Institute and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC), which will display images of the 19th Century Gwich'in Traditional Caribou Skin Clothing Project in the First People’s Hall at the CMC in Gatineau, QC. It is anticipated that the exhibit will be displayed through 2006 and 2007. In addition to the life size images of the five replicas created by Gwich'in seamstresses between 2000 and 2003, the original garment will also be displayed. A book on the project will be published

to accompany the exhibit. The exhibit will be returned to the NWT for display at the PWNHC, with

smaller exhibits in the four Gwich'in communities alongside each community’s clothing replica.



©Tom Andrews, 2003

Gwich'in Traditional Caribou Skin Clothing replicas

Traditional Knowledge Policy

A Traditional Knowledge Policy was passed by the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board of Directors in June 2004. The policy will apply to all traditional knowledge work conducted in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA). With increased exploration and development in the GSA, it was felt that such a policy needed to be in place for the protection and ethical use of Gwich'in traditional knowledge.

Traditional Knowledge Study of the Mackenzie Gas Project

In February 2004, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) began a two phase project that will use Gwich'in traditional

knowledge to develop a base for planning, assessment of impacts and development of environmental protection plans related to the proposed Mackenzie Gas Pipeline. Phase 1 identified gaps in the knowledge of the study area and began the development of a geographic information system (GIS) facility for GSCI. Phase 2 is undertaking research in the communities and further development of the GIS.

Web Site

In April 2004, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) launched its new web site www.gwichin.ca. The site, available in Gwich'in, English and French, includes information about

Gwich'in of the NWT, GSCI and the wide range of research carried out to document, preserve and promote Gwich'in culture, language, traditional knowledge and values. The web site also features:

- virtual tours of significant Gwich'in places;
- databases of Gwich'in photographs, publications and dictionary entries;
- audio samples in both Gwich'ya Gwich'in and Teet'it Gwich'in dialects;
- video clips from the place names and traditional caribou skin clothing projects; and
- information about the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

Initiatives Spanning Two or More Claim Areas

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Yukon Chapter

Three Rivers Journey

The 67,500 km² Peel River basin is an enormous, unspoiled, globally significant boreal watershed. A premier destination for backcountry travel, it is also within the traditional territories of the Nacho Nyak Dun and Teet'it Gwich'in First Nations and provides a connection to their ancestral ways of life.

Organized by the Yukon Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, the Three Rivers Journey invited artists, writers, journalists and photographers to join 26 people from the Yukon and NWT in three separate, simultaneous journeys along the Snake, Wind and Bonnet Plume Rivers. These rivers all flow through the Peel River basin in the Selwyn Mountains along Yukon's eastern border. In return,



©Juni Peepre, 2003

Wilderness guide George Saure rows on the Bonnet Plume during the Three Rivers Journey

these guests were asked to create works that responded to this wild and mystic northern landscape; one that still sustains an Aboriginal way of life.

For 18 days in August 2003, the guests paddled the rivers together

with First Nation community members and conservationists. The journeys ended with a traditional Gwich'in Elders' feast held on the banks of the Peel River in northern Yukon, after the paddlers arrived to customary gun salutes and a chorus of cheers by Teet'it Gwich'in members. More than 100 people participated in the gathering, most of whom had made the eight hour journey upstream from Fort McPherson. They feasted and listened to Elders and First Nation members speak of the importance of the land, wildlife and waters of the Peel watershed.

Inspired by the Three Rivers Journey and the Elders' gathering, the artists, writers and photographers who participated in this project have interpreted their experiences through a variety of media. These works are part of a national touring art exhibit as well as an upcoming book celebrating



©Heritage Resources, Government of Yukon, 2004

Students participating in archaeological excavations at Black City

the Peel watershed and the northern Canadian wilderness. For more information, or to view the art and imagery, visit www.cpawsyukon.org and follow the links on the Three Rivers Project.

**Government of Yukon –
Tourism and Culture –
Heritage Resources Unit**

Black City

Heritage investigations at the site of Black City in 2004 were a joint project of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Nation, the Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute, and the Government of Yukon.

Black City, located in the Blackstone River Uplands, was a traditional gathering place for Teet’it Gwich’in, Tukudh Gwich’in and Han people engaged in the annual fall caribou hunt. During the Klondike Gold Rush, and up to the time the site was abandoned in the late 1920s, the residents were engaged in the meat hunt for Dawson City. The numerous tent and cabin outlines and depressions are of historic importance to Han and Gwich’in people whose ancestors made

their home there. Archaeological investigations focused on learning more about the occupation of the site, daily activities and the age of the site. The number of beads found during the excavation recalled the elaborate and beautifully beaded clothing of the local “Dawson Boys” who were renowned in Dawson City at the time of the Gold Rush. Archaeologists, Teet’it Gwich’in and Han Elders, and students worked together to explore the history of Black City through archaeology and stories of the past (also see following article).

**Gwich'in Social and
Cultural Institute**

**Black City Ethno-Archaeology
Project**

In 2004, the Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute worked with the Teet’it Gwich’in Council, Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Nation and Yukon Government, Heritage Resources Unit, to begin excavation of the Black City site located north of Dawson City (also see previous article). Black City was a large village site inhabited during the Klondike Gold

Rush and into the 1930s by Teet’it Gwich’in, Dagoo [a.k.a. Tukudh] Gwich’in and Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in. The village was strategically located to hunt caribou migrating through the area in the fall, with meat and furs subsequently traded in Dawson.

Teet’it Gwich’in and Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Elders related their stories of Black City and the surrounding area to youth from Fort McPherson and Dawson, oral history researchers and archaeologists. The Elders also assisted with the understanding of the artefacts and structures uncovered during the excavation and the recording of graves in the area. During the course of the excavation, many travellers driving the Dempster Highway, in celebration of its 25th anniversary, stopped at the site to learn about the history of the area.

**Government of Canada –
Parks Canada Agency –
National Parks**

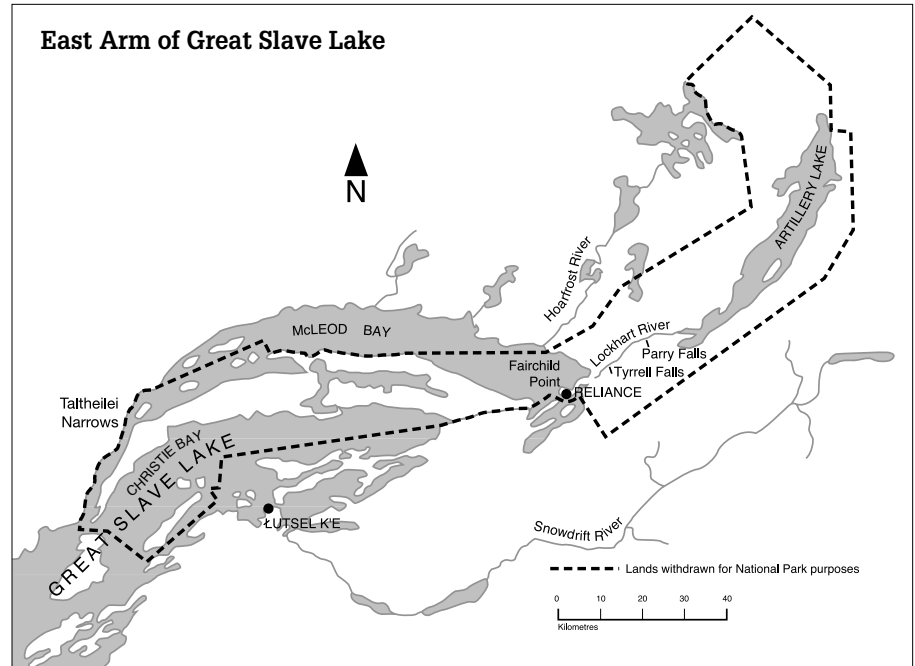
**Expansion of Nahanni National Park
Reserve of Canada**

Parks Canada continues to work on the expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve to enhance protection of its ecological integrity and to better represent the Mackenzie Mountains Natural Region in the National Parks System. In 2004, the Nahanni Expansion Working Group was created to guide the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between Parks Canada and the Dehcho First Nations to expand the Nahanni National Park Reserve. This working group has two members appointed by the Dehcho First Nations and two by Parks Canada.

The area of interest for the completion of Nahanni National Park Reserve includes the Greater Park Ecosystem as defined in the park management plan. This is the entire watershed of the South Nahanni River and the area of karst lands to the southeast. While most of the

area of interest lies within the Deh Cho, the headwater area of the South Nahanni River lies in the Sahtu. The Sahtu preliminary draft land use plan calls for the protection of the headwaters and the Tulita Dene Band Council passed a motion for the land to be withdrawn in May 2004. Supporting letters have also come from other Sahtu organizations. Parks Canada will act as the sponsoring agency through the process set out in the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (also see article on page 18).

The Nahanni Expansion Working Group is directing several research projects relating to conservation values. Field work in 2004 included studies of grizzly bears, woodland caribou and bull trout, investigations of some of the karst areas, and a reconnaissance of third party interests. Projects to map vegetation and land cover, studies of the glaciers, and the creation of a digital elevation model for the area are under way, and a new bibliography of literature relating to the larger area has been completed. Further research on caribou, grizzlies, Dall sheep, bull trout, and other wildlife will be conducted in 2005. A Mineral



and Energy Resource Assessment (MERA) was started in 2004 for that part of the area of interest not already studied in the 2003 MERA.

The MERA, wildlife and other expansion-related research programs will continue through 2005 and the results are expected to be available by April 2006. Public and stakeholder consultations will follow.

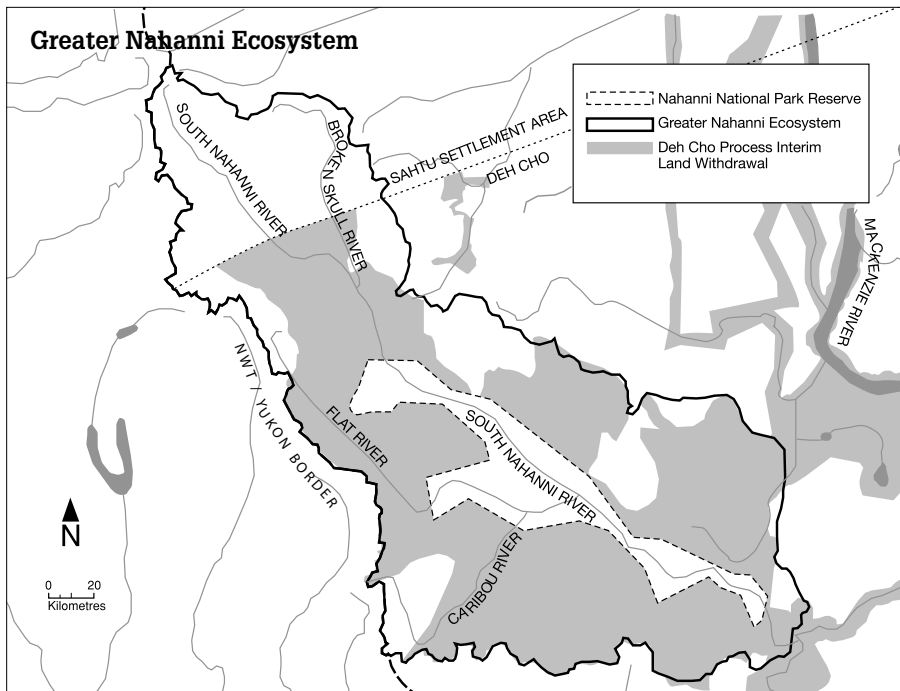
East Arm of Great Slave Lake

The Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation has decided to enter into negotiations with the Government of Canada for the protection of lands in its traditional territory. A national park in the area of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake is part of this concept. The next step is for Lutsel K'e to work out with the other Akaitcho First Nations how negotiations would proceed and how the other first nations would participate. This process is expected to be complete in 2005.

The NWT Métis Nation has decided to discuss the national park proposal internally before engaging in consultations with Parks Canada.

Tuktut Nogait National Park – Sahtu Settlement Area

Parks Canada and the Délne Land Corporation (on behalf of all Sahtu Dene and Métis) tentatively reached agreement on an Impact and Benefit Plan (IBP) to add almost 1,850 km² of land to Tuktut Nogait National Park. The IBP was concluded in accordance with the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* and is undergoing legal review before signature. Once



signed, the lands will be added to the national park through a federal Order in Council. A Sahtu Dene and Métis appointee will join the Park Management Board that already includes appointees of the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC), and the Governments of Canada and the NWT. The Chair was appointed jointly by the federal government and the IRC.

Tuktut Nogait National Park – Nunavut

At the request of the Kugluktuk Community Beneficiaries Committee (CBC), Parks Canada organized a public meeting in Kugluktuk in November 2004. Two representatives from Paulatuk provided information and answered questions on that community's experience with Tuktut Nogait National Park, and a Parks Canada representative answered questions about the proposal.

The meeting served to provide information to the broader community, but did not provide a clear indication of whether the community supports the proposal. The CBC members will discuss what they have learned from the meeting and provide further advice to Parks Canada.

The Kugluktuk Hamlet Council supports a proposal to conduct a tourism potential study of Bluenose Lake, the area proposed for addition to Tuktut Nogait National Park. Parks Canada will design the study in consultation with the Hamlet Council, the CBC, Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association and the Government of Nunavut. The study is planned for the summer of 2005.

Parks Canada will continue the dialogue with the people of Kugluktuk to identify any other information they may require to reach a final decision about park establishment. If the decision is to proceed with the park, the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* requires that the Government of Canada and

Inuit conclude an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement before a national park can be established in Nunavut.

Department of the Environment –

Canadian Wildlife Service

Mills Lake and Edézhzié

Mills Lake is a widening of the Mackenzie River 40 km downstream from where it exits Great Slave Lake. The wetlands around it are an important staging habitat for migratory waterfowl moving up and down the Mackenzie Valley. The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) has had an interest in Mills Lake and its protection for many years, and has collected data that documents its importance to waterfowl and shorebirds that use it for spring and fall staging as well as nesting.

Fort Providence has long been interested in protecting Mills Lake for both subsistence and cultural reasons. For the same reasons, several communities in the Deh Cho and Tłı̄cho Regions, including Fort Providence, were also interested in protecting the Horn Plateau. The Dehcho and Tłı̄cho First Nations leadership and Fort Providence, Líídlı̄'Kúé (Fort Simpson), Jean Marie River, Pedzéh Kí (Wrigley), Rae (Behchokò), and Wha Ti (Lac la Martre) have agreed to work on a combined initiative. A single protected area, Edézhzié, will now be advanced through the process defined in the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (also see article on page 18). The features of this candidate protected area include:

- a representative example of northern boreal forest (Horn Plateau Ecoregion) that supports a population of woodland caribou now listed as “threatened” by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada;
- a boreal wetland (Mills Lake) that is an important stopover for large numbers of birds during the

spring and fall migration up and down the Mackenzie Valley; and

- the Horn Plateau is the source waters from a number of regionally important watersheds.

In co-operation with its partners, CWS served as the sponsoring agency and worked toward the protection of Edézhzié under the *Canada Wildlife Act*. A five year land withdrawal for the area was announced in October 2002.

Ecological and mineral assessments were initiated for Edézhzié in 2002 and will continue on through 2005, including an ornithological inventory of Mills Lake and the lower Horn River areas. This information will provide, in part, the basis for proceeding with designation of the site as well as how it would be managed. An Edézhzié Working Group consisting of community representatives, government and non-government partners has been established to oversee this work.

Ducks Unlimited Canada –

NWT

North Slave

Ducks Unlimited Canada has identified Lac la Martre as having potentially high waterbird value. A new satellite-based earth cover inventory was initiated, with ground truthing data collected in the summer of 2004. The project area is 23,000 km², including Lac la Martre and the surrounding wetlands. Detailed habitat mapping is valuable for helping land use planners make informed conservation decisions.

Deh Cho

The Dehcho First Nations has yet to settle its land claim, but has already taken steps toward conservation by temporarily withdrawing a large network of lands from new development.

Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut

■ Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites

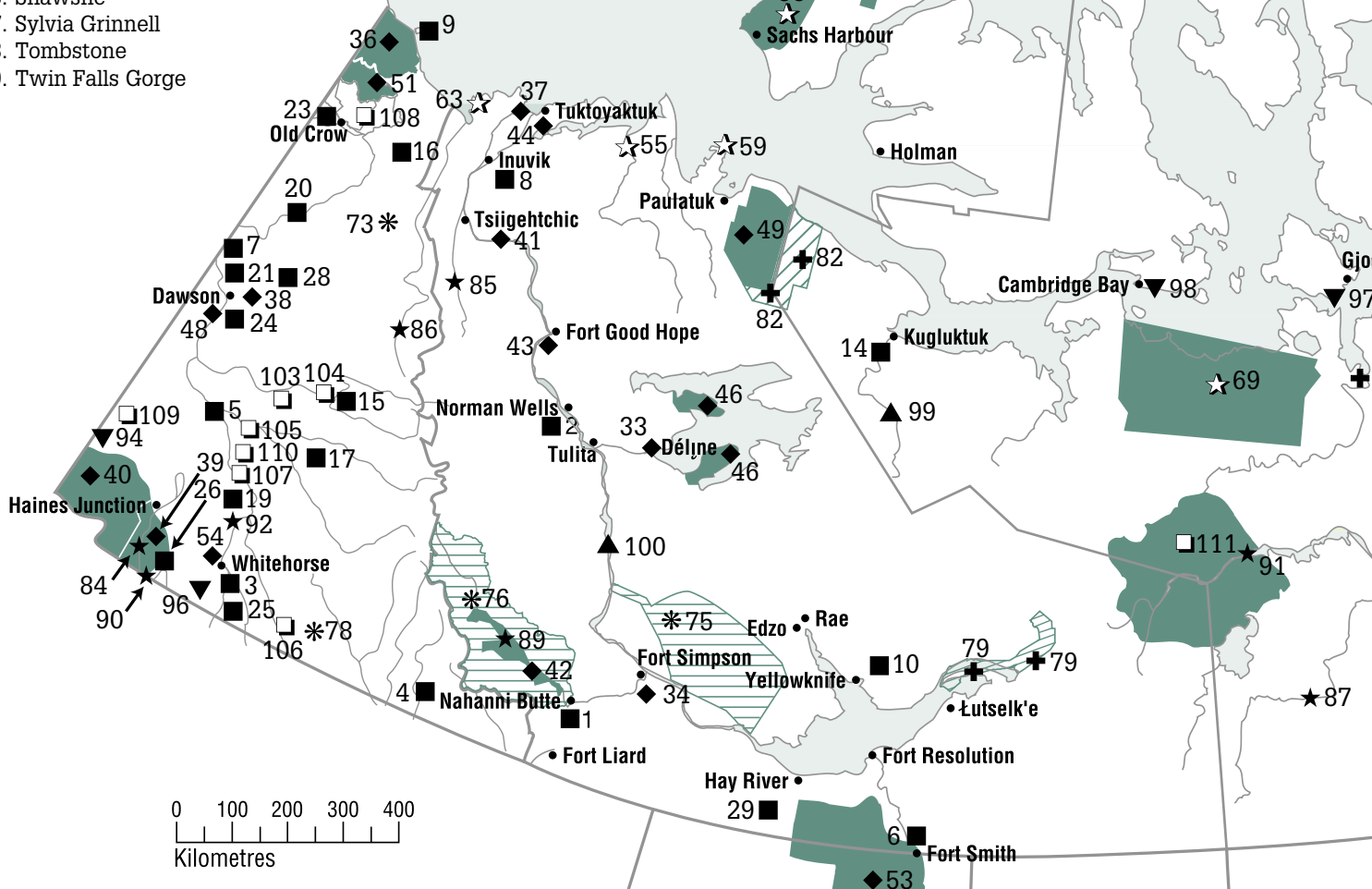
1. Blackstone
2. Canol Trail/Dodo Canyon
3. Canyon City
4. Coal River Springs
5. Fort Selkirk
6. Fort Smith Mission
7. Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine
8. Gwich'in
9. Herschel Island
10. Hidden Lake
11. Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga
12. Katannilik
13. Kekerten
14. Kuglúk
15. Lansing Post
16. LaPierre House
17. Mabel McIntyre House
18. Mallikjuaq
19. Montague Road House
20. Ni'inlii' Njik - Fishing Branch
21. Original Telegraph Office, Yukon Sawmill Co. Office (Dawson City)
22. Qaummaarviit
23. Rampart House
24. Ridge Road Heritage Trail
25. Robinson Road House
26. Sháwshé
27. Sylvia Grinnell
28. Tombstone
29. Twin Falls Gorge

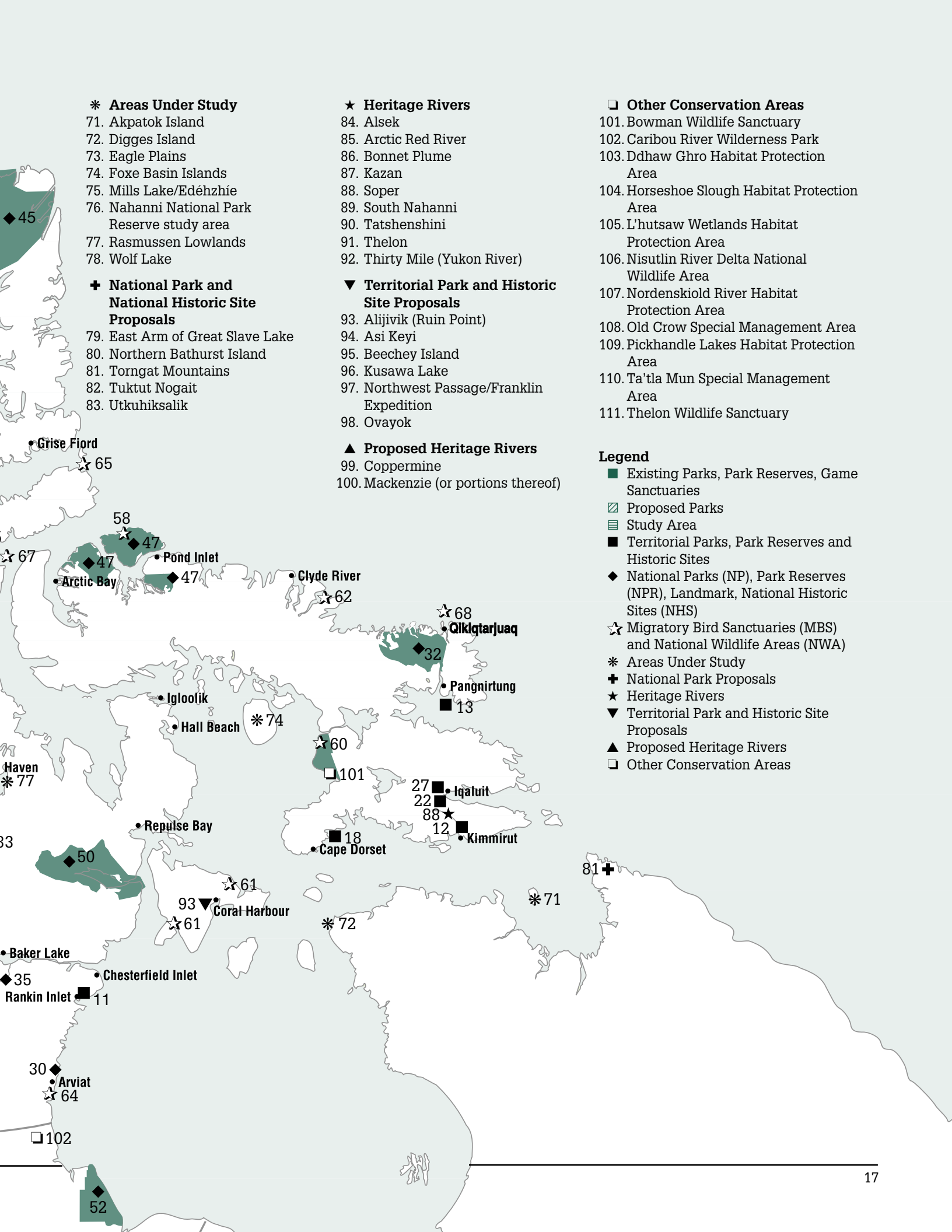
◆ National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)

30. Arvia'juaq NHS
31. Aulavik NP
32. Auyuittuq NP
33. Délne Fishery and Fort Franklin NHS
34. Ehdáa NHS
35. Fall Caribou Crossing NHS
36. Ivvavik NP
37. Kitigaryuit NHS
38. Klondike NHS (Dawson City)
39. Kluane NP
40. Kluane NPR
41. Nagwichoonjik NHS
42. Nahanni NPR
43. Our Lady of Good Hope Church NHS
44. Pingo Canadian Landmark
45. Quttinirpaq NP
46. Sahyoe/Edacho NHS
47. Sirmilik NP
48. Tr'ochèk NHS
49. Tuktuu Nogait NP
50. Ukkusiksalik NP
51. Vuntut NP
52. Wapusk NP
53. Wood Buffalo NP
54. Yukon NHS (*SS Klondike*)

☆ Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)

55. Anderson River Delta MBS
56. Banks Island No. 1 MBS
57. Banks Island No. 2 MBS
58. Bylot Island MBS
59. Cape Parry MBS
60. Dewey Soper MBS
61. East Bay/Harry Gibbons MBS
62. Igalituuq NWA (proposed)
63. Kendall Island MBS
64. McConnell River MBS
65. Nirjutiqavvik NWA
66. Polar Bear Pass NWA
67. Prince Leopold Island MBS
68. Qaulluit and Akpait NWA (proposed)
69. Queen Maud Gulf MBS
70. Seymour Island MBS





*** Areas Under Study**

- 71. Akpatok Island
- 72. Digges Island
- 73. Eagle Plains
- 74. Foxe Basin Islands
- 75. Mills Lake/Edézhzié
- 76. Nahanni National Park Reserve study area
- 77. Rasmussen Lowlands
- 78. Wolf Lake

+ National Park and National Historic Site Proposals

- 79. East Arm of Great Slave Lake
- 80. Northern Bathurst Island
- 81. Torngat Mountains
- 82. Tukut Nogait
- 83. Utkuhiksalik

★ Heritage Rivers

- 84. Alsek
- 85. Arctic Red River
- 86. Bonnet Plume
- 87. Kazan
- 88. Soper
- 89. South Nahanni
- 90. Tatshenshini
- 91. Thelon
- 92. Thirty Mile (Yukon River)

▼ Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals

- 93. Alijivik (Ruin Point)
- 94. Asi Keyi
- 95. Beechey Island
- 96. Kusawa Lake
- 97. Northwest Passage/Franklin Expedition
- 98. Ovayok

▲ Proposed Heritage Rivers

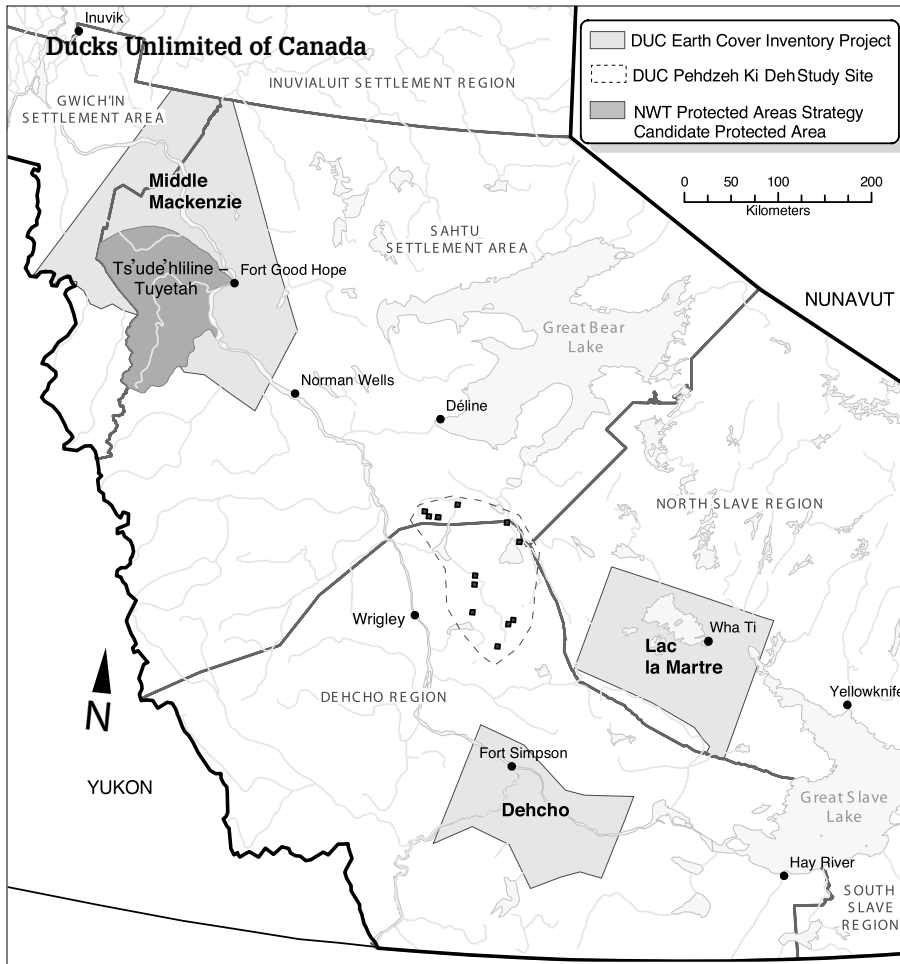
- 99. Coppermine
- 100. Mackenzie (or portions thereof)

□ Other Conservation Areas

- 101. Bowman Wildlife Sanctuary
- 102. Caribou River Wilderness Park
- 103. Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area
- 104. Horseshoe Slough Habitat Protection Area
- 105. L'hutsaw Wetlands Habitat Protection Area
- 106. Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area
- 107. Nordenskiold River Habitat Protection Area
- 108. Old Crow Special Management Area
- 109. Pickhandle Lakes Habitat Protection Area
- 110. Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area
- 111. Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary

Legend

- Existing Parks, Park Reserves, Game Sanctuaries
- ▨ Proposed Parks
- ▤ Study Area
- Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites
- ◆ National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)
- ☆ Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)
- * Areas Under Study
- + National Park Proposals
- ★ Heritage Rivers
- ▼ Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
- ▲ Proposed Heritage Rivers
- Other Conservation Areas



Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) has initiated a new satellite-based earth cover inventory, covering almost 18,000 km² in the Mackenzie River Valley between Edézhie (Horn Plateau) candidate protected area and Samba K'e (Trout Lake) area of interest. Ground truthing of satellite imagery was completed in the summer of 2004. This is an important part of creating a detailed habitat map that will assist biologists and land use planners in defining ecologically sensitive lands.

The Pehdzeh Ki First Nation has identified an area for potential protection under the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) (also see article on page 18). DUC conducted preliminary waterbird surveys in an area north and east of Wrigley in the spring of 2004. While it was not a comprehensive inventory, it is

hoped that the information gathered on this area will provide counsel for consideration in the PAS.

Sahtu

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is working with the community of Fort Good Hope to obtain protection for Ts'ude'hililine – Tuyetah candidate protected area, an area of approximately 15,000 km². The Canadian Wildlife Service has offered to protect Ts'ude'hililine – Tuyetah as a National Wildlife Area because of the significant wetland complexes and its importance to breeding waterbirds. DUC and Fort Good Hope will submit a proposal that outlines the ecological and cultural values of the area and, at the same time, request a five year interim land withdrawal from development.

Two or More Regions

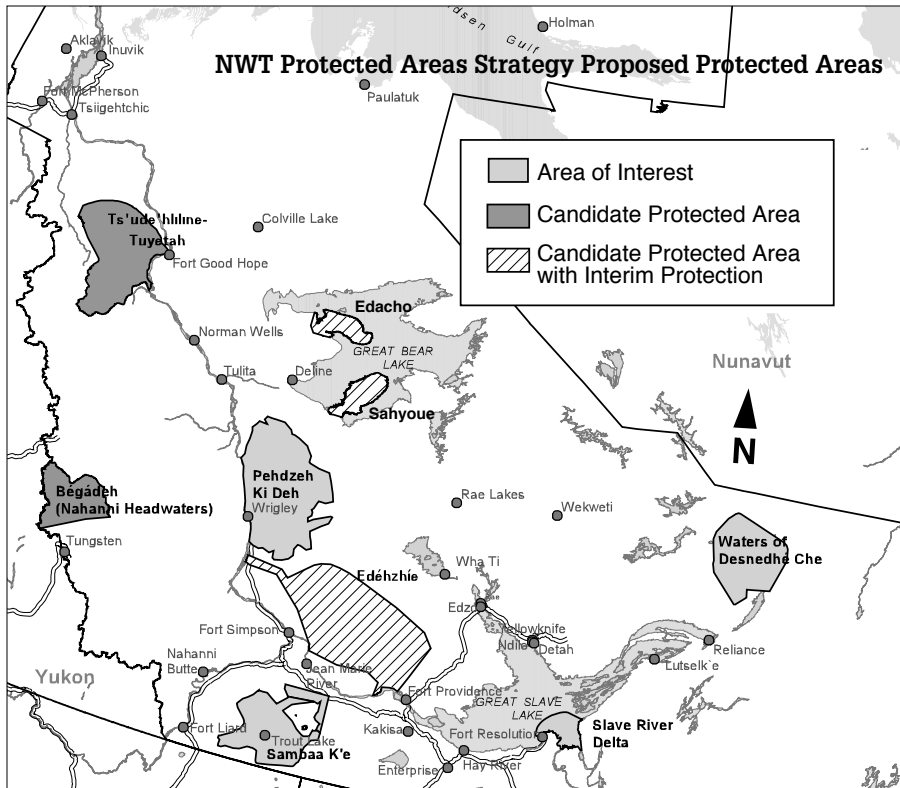
Satellite-based habitat mapping of a 51,850 km² area was initiated in 2003 and continued through 2004. Carried out by Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), the fourth earth cover inventory, known as the Middle Mackenzie project, will link the three others to represent a sizable portion of the Mackenzie River Valley and encompasses some significant wetlands. DUC intends to use the earth cover information to work with local communities, government and industry to develop protected conservation areas around critical habitat and provide important information in the planning process. These habitat mapping projects are also of interest and use to partners studying non-waterfowl species.

NWT Protected Areas Strategy

The NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) is a guide for making decisions to protect lands using the best available knowledge. It is an effective community-based tool for advancing culturally and ecologically significant areas to long-term protected status. It envisions a future that safeguards special natural and cultural areas while keeping resource development options open. The goals of the PAS are to:

- protect special natural and cultural areas where development could be permitted when compatible with the values being protected; and
- protect core areas to represent the NWT's 42 eco-regions where resource-based development and associated infrastructure will not be permitted.

The PAS is a collaborative and flexible partnership. The PAS Implementation Advisory Committee guides the Strategy, and includes representatives from regional Aboriginal organizations, environmental non-government



organizations, industry, and the territorial and federal governments.

The eight steps in the PAS process are:

1. Identify priority areas of interest.
2. Prepare a protected area proposal at the regional level.
3. Review and submit the proposal for candidate protected area status.
4. Apply interim protection for the candidate area (where necessary).
5. Conduct a detailed evaluation of the candidate area, including consultations.
6. Seek formal establishment of the protected area.
7. Approve and designate the protected area.
8. Implement, monitor and review the protected area.

Each of these eight steps requires the involvement and support of the concerned communities. Further details can be found at www.gov.nt.ca/rwed/pas/index.htm.

Update

The Protected Areas Strategy is in its sixth year of implementation. Nine areas, identified by communities and regional organizations, are being advanced – six of these in the Mackenzie Valley. The nine areas and their current status in the process are:

- Waters of Desnedhe Che (Łutsel K'e), Hook Lake/Slave River Delta (Fort Resolution), Pehdzeh Ki Deh (Wrigley), and Drybones Bay/Wool Bay (Yellowknives Dene) are in Steps 1 or 2. At these stages, the areas have no definitive boundaries and no restrictions on land access.
- Ts'ude'hililine – Tuyetah (Fort Good Hope) and Bégádeh – Headwaters of the South Nahanni River (Tulita) are in Step 3. Preliminary boundaries have been identified but there are no restrictions on land access.
- Edézhíe (Dehcho and Dogrib First Nations) and Sahyoue/Edachó National Historic Site (Délne) are in Step 5 and have

interim protection (a time limited withdrawal from new surface or subsurface interests).

- Sambaá K'e (Trout Lake) does not fit into any single step of the process. The majority of a community identified area is already under interim protection through the *Dehcho Interim Measures Agreement*.

Mackenzie Valley Five Year Action Plan

The Governments of the NWT and Canada recently agreed to a five year action plan to enhance community-based protected areas planning in the Mackenzie Valley.

The Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) Implementation Advisory Committee developed the Mackenzie Valley Five Year Action Plan in 2003 at the request of the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. The impetus was, and is, the increasing pace and scale of development within the Mackenzie Valley. If approved, the Mackenzie Gas Project will be the largest energy development project in the NWT and one of the largest in Canadian history.

The action plan describes how communities and their partners can use the PAS to support long-term conservation goals such as those identified in community conservation plans, land use plans, interim measures and land claims. It also describes the strategic investments needed over the next five years to identify, review, establish and evaluate a network of protected areas in order to have a balance of protection and development in the Mackenzie Valley.

The key objectives of the action plan are to:

- work together to identify protected areas;
- build capacity among communities, government and other partners;
- improve information for candidate areas; and
- increase communications.

Sahtu Settlement Area

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

Sahyoue/Edacho

At its annual general meeting

of October 2004, the Délne Land Corporation passed a resolution to request a five year land withdrawal extension for Sahyoue/Edacho. Parks Canada has agreed to submit an application to extend the interim withdrawal order to ensure the

continued protection of this national historic site. This will allow the parties to continue working together to advance this initiative without new conflicting interests being registered in the land.

Canadian Heritage Rivers

**Government of Canada –
Parks Canada Agency –
Canadian Heritage Rivers**

The objective of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is to include rivers that represent the best examples of Canada's river heritage, and to ensure that these rivers are managed so that their heritage values are conserved.

When an interest is expressed in looking at a river for CHRS status, a background study is prepared. As the first step in the process, background studies collect all available information, including field verification, on a river's natural and cultural heritage, its recreational opportunities, and issues that could affect its management as a Canadian Heritage River. If the background study indicates that a river meets CHRS guidelines, the next step is the preparation of a nomination document.

The nomination document is presented to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board for formal review. The Board then recommends to the Minister of the Environment and the appropriate provincial or territorial minister whether or not a river meets CHRS criteria and if it should be considered for inclusion in the system.

Before designation, a management plan, or heritage strategy, must be submitted to

the Board that describes the management area and the policies and actions to be put into place to fulfill CHRS objectives. This document is reviewed by the Board to ensure that there is a commitment to manage the river so that its heritage values are adequately protected.

Once the plan is accepted by the Board, the next step in the process is the designation ceremony, which involves the unveiling of a bronze plaque at a prominent location along the river. This, however, is not the end of the CHRS process. Yearly status reports must be submitted on the condition of the river and every 10 years a "State-of-the-River" report must be submitted to the Board.

Further information on these processes can be obtained from:

Canadian Heritage Rivers System
Secretariat
Parks Canada Agency
4th Floor, Jules Leger Building
North
25 Eddy Street
Gatineau, QC K1A 0M5
www.chrs.ca

**Government of Yukon –
Department of the
Environment**

Tatshenshini River

The Yukon portion of the Tatshenshini River was designated a Canadian Heritage River in

September 2004. It was nominated in June 1998 as one of the requirements under the *Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Final Agreement*. The preparation of a Tatshenshini management strategy began in 1999, with extensive consultations focusing on three main issues: recreational use, size of the management area, and access routes.

Located in one of the wildest areas in the world, the Tatshenshini is known for its wilderness, wildlife and salmon. It provides significant recreational opportunities in a pristine and scenic mountainous setting. Its establishment as a Canadian Heritage River complements the existing network of protected areas consisting of Kluane National Park and Reserve of Canada, Tatshenshini-Atkasit Provincial Park, Glacier Bay National Park and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park that, together, form the adjacent World Heritage Site as designated under UNESCO.

The management strategy focuses on monitoring visitor activities along the river corridor to ensure that the recreational, cultural and natural values remain intact. The management area includes the upstream portion of the watershed and is approximately 1,400 km² in size.

The designation of the Tatshenshini as a Canadian Heritage

River does not affect existing legislation, regulations or policies related to land or resource uses. Existing and proposed uses of the watershed will continue to be permitted within these existing legislative frameworks. Yukon, Parks Canada, BC Parks, and the US National Park Services will jointly manage the Tatshenshini in accordance with their own mandates and respective areas of responsibilities.

The next step will be the official designation ceremony planned for the summer of 2005, followed by the implementation of the management strategy.

Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

Mackenzie River

A prime candidate for nomination to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, the 4,241 km long Mackenzie River (Canada's longest river) possesses an abundance of natural, historical, cultural, and recreational features that are outstanding from both a Canadian and territorial perspective. Committed to respecting and celebrating its distinctive history and geography, Gwich'in, Sahtu, Dehcho and Métis of the NWT are working with the territorial government toward the nomination of the Mackenzie as a Canadian Heritage River. A portion

of the Mackenzie River flowing through Gwich'in lands (between Thunder River and Point Separation) has been designated Nagwichoonyik National Historic Site in recognition of its historical significance as a cultural landscape.

Background research is currently being compiled to identify, describe and assess the river's heritage, recreational and tourism values. As part of this work, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) was contracted by Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Government of the NWT, to compile an annotated bibliography of information relating to the natural heritage of the Mackenzie River (i.e. flora, fauna, water resources, etc.). This information will be summarized into a nomination document to be submitted to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. Discussions on the Mackenzie River nomination will be held at the Board's next meeting scheduled for August 2005 in Inuvik. GSCI also represents the Gwich'in Tribal Council on the Steering Committee guiding the nomination.

Government of Nunavut – Department of the Environment

Coppermine River

Rich in culture and wildlife, the Coppermine River is one of the most scenic in Canada. The natural

land- and river-scape has only been modified by the forces of wind, water and ice. Copper deposits found along the river were important to the first peoples who lived here. In fact, it was stories of the copper deposits that brought Samuel Hearne to the area in 1771. Hearne's documented overland journey to the river, and the massacre he witnessed at Bloody Falls, brought the Coppermine into the history books. The river continues to support the Inuit subsistence lifestyle. Caribou, muskoxen, wolverine, wolves, moose, fox and a variety of raptors can be found here.

The Coppermine was officially nominated as a Canadian Heritage River in August 2002. The Government of Nunavut (GN) will work with the community of Kugluktuk on the development of a management plan for the river once the Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA) for Heritage Rivers is negotiated. The IIBA for Heritage Rivers is being negotiated between the Government of Canada, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the three regional Inuit associations. The GN is a party to the agreement in recognition of its management role for Heritage Rivers within the territory. The GN has three years to present a management plan and IIBA for Heritage Rivers, before the official designation of the Coppermine as a Canadian Heritage River.

Nunavut

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency – National Parks

Northern Bathurst Island

The eastern portion of Bathurst Island is an area of high mineral potential. It is also an area important for Peary caribou, an endangered species. Rather than foreclose any

possibility of mineral development in that area, government is proposing to exclude the eastern portion of the high resource potential Cornwallis Fold Belt from the park in exchange for islands to the west. A moratorium on mineral exploration and development would be put in place on the excluded lands until the Peary caribou recover, or their fate is

otherwise determined. Upon lifting of the moratorium, exploration and development would be subject to special management measures, to be developed during the period of the moratorium.

With the support of the Resolute Bay Community Lands and Resources Committee (CLARC) and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association

(QIA), the federal government reconfigured and renewed the interim land withdrawal for this area until October 2009. The withdrawal includes the proposed special management area, but the CLARC was clear that its support for the withdrawal does not mean support for the proposed boundaries and, particularly, the special management area proposal.

The CLARC conducted a community plebiscite in June of 2004, which showed that a majority of residents are in favour of establishing a national park on Northern Bathurst Island. The plebiscite question made it clear that approval to advance toward establishment of the park would not mean approval of the government's proposal for a special management area.

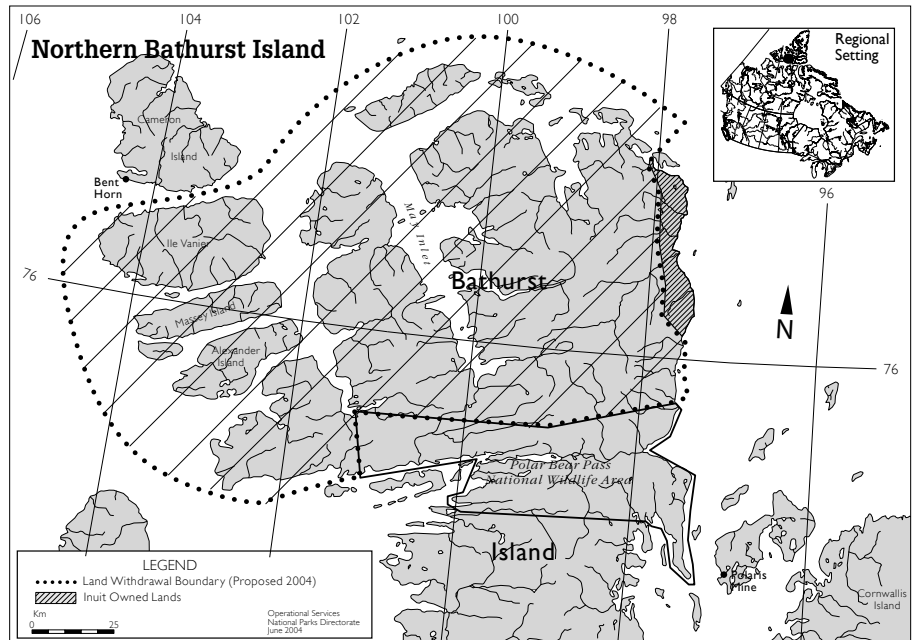
The Governments of Canada and Nunavut, the Resolute Bay CLARC and QIA have agreed to participate in a workshop to explore the option of a special management area. All agree that it is best to address this matter before beginning negotiations on establishing a park. The workshop will be organized by officials of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and will likely take place sometime in 2005.

**Government of Nunavut –
Department of
Environment –
Parks and Conservation Areas**

Mirnguiqsirviit – Nunavut Parks

Nunavut (“our land”), formed on April 1, 1999, encompasses 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.

Residents of Nunavut are proud of its 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 landscapes, but they proudly showcase them locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

An Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Territorial Parks

The 1993 *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)* 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 – including meaningful community involvement, management, and impact and benefit measures related to protected areas.

As part of the obligations of the *NLCA* a Territorial Parks Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA) was signed in 2002 recognizing the role of territorial parks in Nunavut. The IIBA will assist in the development of Inuit tourism opportunities and

benefits associated with parks by providing training and economic opportunities, and establishing a process toward the joint management and planning of the lands and resources in existing and future territorial parks.

Nunavut Parks, along with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the three regional Inuit associations, will focus on implementing the IIBA over the next several years. The parties will continue to negotiate with the federal government for funding to implement the IIBA's 17 Articles, and will consult with a working group to oversee the implementation of the IIBA. The Government of Nunavut is implementing a government policy on procedures for contracting and business opportunities in territorial parks, and is working with the Parks Contract Working Group to monitor contracting and ensure Inuit firms and businesses receive preferential treatment as per the *NLCA*.

The IIBA also provides for local and territorial involvement in the development and management of territorial parks. The establishment of co-management structures will be instrumental in helping develop a new Nunavut Parks Program.

Parnasiaqtiarniq – Safe Travel in Nunavut

In 2004, Parks Canada, Government of Nunavut and Search and Rescue Canada launched the *Parnasiaqtiarniq – Safe Travel in Nunavut* video/DVD, which is aimed at visitors travelling in Nunavut's parks and wilderness areas. Its goal is to reduce the number of visitor accidents within parks; accidents that are often the result of not knowing how to recognize hazards and potential dangers in the Arctic landscape.

Parnasiaqtiarniq has been produced in seven languages – English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, and Inuktitut – and runs 24 minutes. As well as national and international distribution, it has been sent to every hunter and trapper organization, hamlet office, visitor centre, school and public library in Nunavut.

Nunavut Park Campgrounds

Campgrounds are important elements in the Nunavut Territorial Parks Program, providing services for park visitors and local communities. Community involvement in planning and development includes the selection of campground sites, type and number of facilities as well as identification of campground names. Nunavut Parks began the process of re-developing three existing campgrounds, and establishing and developing two new campgrounds in 2002.

Upgrades to Inuujaarvik Territorial Park Campground in Baker Lake, and the relocation and new facility installations at Pisuktinu Tunngavik Territorial Park Campground in Pangnirtung are complete. The new Taqaiqsirvik Territorial Park Campground in Kimmirut was installed in 2004. The old Qilaluqat

Territorial Park Campground in Pond Inlet will be dismantled and new facilities installed south of the community near Salmon Creek in 2005. The new name chosen for this campground site is Tamaarvik. The Resolute Bay Tupirvik Territorial Park Campground will also be completed in 2005.

Park Feasibility Studies

Nunavut Parks began feasibility studies in 2001 to consider opportunities for the establishment of parks in some of Nunavut's communities. Building on existing land use plans, Community and Regional Economic Development Plans and pre-feasibility studies, the projects have identified potential territorial park sites including support (training, product development, etc.) and facilities required, as well as the potential economic and social benefits to the communities.

Visual Identity

The development of the Nunavut Parks Program includes a visual identity program. This

program will present a consistent and professional presence, and distinguish and enhance public awareness of Nunavut parks in a clear and prominent way. The visual identity program has included the development of the Mirnguiqsirviit name and logo, www.nunavutparks.ca, and the development of design standards for park facilities, signs and publications.

Through the Nunavut Parks Signage Program, interpretive signage was developed for four parks this season. All new signs display the Mirnguiqsirviit and Government of Nunavut logos, and include the four official languages of Nunavut – Inuktitut, Innuinaqtun, English and French.

Work under the Parks Facilities Design Standards resulted in the construction of Taqaiqsirvik Park Campground near Kimmirut, and facility development within Katannilik, Igalugaarjuup Nunanga and Kugluk Parks, resulting in structures with a distinctly northern vernacular.

Available in spring 2005, the



Campground entrance sign

Nunavut Parks poster will include a map locating and providing general information on territorial parks. More detailed information can be found on information cards for each park. New brochures and guidebooks will be available for Ovayok, Igalugaarjuup Nunanga and Sylvia Grinnell Parks in the spring of 2005.

Clyde River

In 2001, the Government of Nunavut committed to work with the community of Clyde River to examine the potential for profiling significant features in the area. As a result of the 2003 Attractions Feasibility Study, the area from the east coast of Baffin Bay west to the Barnes Ice Cap and from Clark Fiord south to Ayr Lake was recommended by the residents of Clyde River for a territorial park feasibility study. 2004 field work began an inventory of natural and cultural features, and determined the opportunities, constraints and options for designating this part of the central east coast of Baffin Island as a territorial park. This spectacular area includes deep coastal fiords, ancient glaciers and rugged valleys, as well as dramatic rock walls. Sam Ford Fiord and the Stewart Valley, within the study area, are known for world class climbing.

Coral Harbour

Feasibility studies in 2003 and 2004 identified the unique archaeological site of Alijivik (Ruin Point) as the preferred option for park establishment and development for the community of Coral Harbour. Alijivik, located 60 kilometres southwest of Coral Harbour along the shores of South Bay, was once occupied by Sadlermiut. Evidence of their occupation can be found in the well preserved sod houses, limestone caches, fox traps, kayak stands and graves.

The studies also identified potential attractions along the route to Alijivik: Fossil Creek, known



Clyde River feasibility study area

for its fossilized coral dating back many thousands of years, and Kirchoffer Falls, a 25 foot waterfall on the Kirchoffer River. Some limited development will be undertaken at Fossil Creek and Kirchoffer Falls for the summer of 2005. Subject to community support, the next phases of the proposed Alijivik Territorial Park project will include the development of a Park Master Plan and park establishment.

Hall Beach

Based on the recommendations of a feasibility study in the Hall Beach area, Nunavut Parks is focusing on interpreting the interaction between historical Inuit technology and the coming of the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line System to the north. Hall Beach is the site of FOX Main Station, which is distinguished by the numbers and conditions of its original buildings and antennae on site.



Alijivik limestone cache

©Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut, 2004

©Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut, 2004

Working with territorial and federal partners, Nunavut Parks is developing interpretive panels and a site brochure for the DEW Line in Hall Beach. The interpretation of the DEW Line site focuses on both its technological importance and its significance to the people of the Hall Beach area.

Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park

Just inland from the west coast of Hudson Bay, about eight kilometres northwest of the community of Rankin Inlet, lies Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga ("the land around the river of little fishes") Territorial Park. In summer and fall, visitors and residents enjoy the river's spectacular scenery, fishing, swimming, berry picking and viewing the park's abundant wildlife, including the peregrine falcon. The park's most outstanding feature is the historic site Qamaviniqtalik ("place of ancient sod houses") and its interpretive walking trail located on the flood plains of the Meliadine River. The numerous archaeological features at Qamaviniqtalik are representative of the transition from the Thule culture to the historic Caribou Inuit culture.

Park development has been ongoing since the summer of 2003, and there are now three picnic areas, a small camping area with tent pads, and a newly renovated cabin with a wood stove. Visitation to the park has been steadily increasing since 2003, and the park is used by the community as a staging area for activities during cruise ship visits and for other special events in the community. A park brochure and guidebook will be printed in 2005, and interpretive signage will be installed during the summer. Future plans include the development of hiking/interpretive trails.

Katannilik Territorial Park

Katannilik ("the place of waterfalls"), in south Baffin



©Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut, 2003

Katannilik Territorial Park

near Kimmirut, is an area of approximately 1,269 km², almost all of it in the Soper River watershed. The park provides opportunities for water-based recreation including rafting, canoeing and kayaking as well as hiking, cross-country skiing, dog sledding and snowmobiling.

Through July to September 2004, roughly 300 people visited the park and the community of Kimmirut. The community, with assistance from park staff, organized cultural events for the visitors. Summer visitor use alone has resulted in increasing economic impacts in Kimmirut for arts and crafts, home-stay programs, and community activities and events. The Soper House, the home of the 1930s explorer and biologist Dewey Soper, now serves as the Soper House Gallery where soapstone carvings, jewellery made from local stone, and handicrafts are for sale through the Quliruakut Society.

With funding support from the Kakivak Association, summer science camps for students were held in August 2004. Students learned about wildlife and plant ecology, traditional use of rocks and minerals, navigation using rocks/stars, and safe boating skills on a river.

An annual snowmobile race from Iqaluit to Kimmirut runs through the park and includes racers from Northern Quebec and the Baffin and Kivalliq regions of Nunavut. An annual event since the early 1970s, the race is attracting more racers, spectators and sponsors.

Katannilik Park is now supported by a campground within the community of Kimmirut, constructed during the summer of 2004. A boathouse was constructed at Soper Falls to assist Katannilik Park staff in monitoring activities within the park.

Kekerten Territorial Park

Kekerten Park, located 50 km from Pangnirtung within Cumberland Sound, was a highly used Scottish Whaling Station during the 1850s and 1860s. A number of artifacts remain as part of the whaling station, including the 1857 foundations of three storehouses, large cast-iron pots, and restored tent frames and rings.

The Government of Nunavut and the community of Pangnirtung have been working on the second phase of a restoration project for Kekerten Historic Park, which is meant to increase economic development

opportunities while enhancing the awareness of the unique whaling history. The development of the Scottish Whaling Station at Kekerten will support local outfitters providing tours to the park by increasing the interpretive potential of the site to include the relationship of Inuit with the whalers. The design phase of the project is complete and includes a three-dimensional skeletal structure ghosting the Scottish whaling station, removable fabric interpretive panels and several interactive interpretive stations throughout the site.

Kugluk Territorial Park

Kugluk (“Bloody Falls”) Park is located 15 km southwest of the community of Kugluktuk, around Bloody Falls on the lower Coppermine River. The 10 hectare area contains remnants of Thule winter houses used more than 500 years ago, archaeological evidence of caribou hunting camps of 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. Occupied for thousands of years because of the excellent fishing, Bloody Falls was declared a national historic site in 1978 for, perhaps, the most famous battle in the north.

The Coppermine River, which flows through the park, was nominated as a Canadian Heritage River in August 2002 (also see article on page 21). With the treeline 50 kms to the south, a wide range of wildlife can be found in the area, including grizzly bear, musk oxen, caribou, wolf, golden eagle and bald eagle.

Because of its close proximity to Kugluktuk, local use of the area for camping and fishing is increasing, reflecting the traditional use of the site. The park is a convenient place to camp for canoeing and rafting parties descending the Coppermine River, and a newly constructed portage trail provides easy traverse



Kugluk Territorial Park

around the rapids. Some limited infrastructure development will occur in the spring of 2005.

Ovayok Territorial Park

Ovayok, or Mount Pelly, is the name used to describe the large esker that dominates the landscape

within this territorial park located 15 km east of the community of Cambridge Bay. According to the local legend of Ovayok, the three esker mountains were once a family of giants who died of starvation while walking across Victoria Island in search of food. Visitors can explore



Ovayok Territorial Park

©Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut, 2004

©Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut, 2004

the legend and the rich cultural history associated with Ovayok as they hike through the park, whether they choose a day trip or to camp for several days.

Ovayok Territorial Park is easily accessible by vehicle and visitors will likely see musk oxen while driving to, or within, the park. A half day hike to the summit of Ovayok reveals spectacular views of the surrounding lakescape, the raised beaches of the mountain, and a possible sighting of a peregrine falcon or an arctic hare. The area is renowned for its diversity and numbers of Arctic birds, and many bird watchers from around the world are attracted by opportunities to add to their life lists.

An interpretive plan for the park will be completed in the spring of 2005, and includes the design and printing of a park brochure and guidebook, the design and fabrication of interpretive signage, and identification of hiking routes through the park. The projects will support local outfitters providing tours to the park by increasing the interpretive potential of the site.

Qaummaarviit Territorial Park

Located 14 km west of Iqaluit by boat, Qaummaarviit Territorial Park, a Thule heritage site, represents more than 750 years of Inuit occupation. The remains of summer houses, kayak stands, meat caches and other archaeological features can be observed. The park also contains the remains of 11 winter houses which were resourcefully built with raised living surfaces and deep entries to minimize cold living conditions. The interpretive walking trail and signs offer a glimpse of the remarkable features left by past inhabitants of this beautiful island.

Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park

Located one kilometre from the heart of Iqaluit, Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park provides an opportunity for many visitors and residents to easily access an Arctic landscape. The park provides visitors with a chance to see a variety of Arctic plants, mammals and birds. Cultural heritage in the park area includes traditional fishing sites at the Sylvia Grinnell River rapids, stone cairns and Thule ruins.

Orientation and interpretive signs for the park will be installed in 2005. Nunavut Parks has been working with the Department of National Defense, the Trans Canada Trail Foundation and the Rotary Club of Iqaluit to design and construct a pedestrian bridge over the Sylvia Grinnell River. Completion of the bridge construction is projected for 2006.

**Government of Canada –
Environment Canada –
Canadian Wildlife Service**

New Initiatives and Existing Conservation Areas

Article 9 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* requires negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for most conservation areas, and the development of management plans for all conservation areas. The two National Wildlife Areas (NWA) and 11 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) in Nunavut are all subject to this requirement.

In 2001, CWS and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. began negotiating an Umbrella IIBA covering the 13 existing federal conservation areas in Nunavut. The IIBA outlines how the conservation areas will be co-managed and how the cultural, heritage and wildlife resources will be protected, while clarifying Inuit rights and benefits related to use of the lands and resources within the conservation areas, tourism, research, employment and training. These negotiations are expected to be completed in 2005.

The signing of the IIBA will also establish three new NWAs: Igaligtuuq, Qaulluit and Akpait. All three are on the east coast of Baffin Island and are the result of strong interest and effort by the communities of Clyde River and Oikiqtarjuaq. Igaligtuuq, in Isabella Bay, south of Clyde River, provides



©Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut, 2004

Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park

On the Lookout for Ivory Gulls

The Ivory Gull, a small, pure white gull with black legs, is in serious decline in Nunavut. This species was common at the Seymour Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary and was frequently observed near the floe edge off of Bylot Island (near Pond Inlet) and near Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord. Based on Inuit Qaujimatuaqangit and field research conducted between 2002 and 2004, it seems to have disappeared from many of its previously known nesting sites. These new data were used to update the status report for the Ivory Gull, and the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada is currently reviewing that report to determine whether the species will be uplisted from “special concern” to “threatened” or “endangered”.



©Mark Mallory, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2003

Ivory Gull calling in flight

If you observe an Ivory Gull, please report the observation, date and approximate location to the Canadian Wildlife Service in Iqaluit (see “For More Information” for contact numbers).



©Mark Mallory, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2002

Oqaulluit (Cape Searle)

critical summer habitat for bowhead whales. Oqaulluit and Akpait (on Cape Searle and Reid Bay, near Qikiqtarjuaq) are both significant seabird colonies.

Key Marine Sites for Migratory Birds

In Nunavut and the NWT approximately 40 species of birds, representing more than 15 million

individuals, rely on marine habitats for breeding, feeding, migration staging or wintering. In 2004, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) published Occasional Paper 109 identifying 34 key marine habitat sites for migratory birds in Nunavut and the NWT (i.e. those sites that support more than one percent of the Canadian population of a species at some point through their annual



©Inuit Heritage Trust, 2004

Local knowledge guiding the archaeological survey

**Government of Canada –
Parks Canada Agency –
National Parks**

Wapusk National Park of Canada

For more than 30 years research has been on-going on the land that is now Wapusk National Park. Located 45 km south of Churchill, Manitoba, the 11,475 km² national park is most famous for the Western Hudson Bay polar bear population. The

10-member Wapusk Management Board supports all research that is carried out in the park. Since the establishment of the park in 1996, the Board has supported various types of research, including that conducted by Parks Canada, other government departments, individuals and universities. Subjects range from polar bears to geese, lichens and cultural resources.

During the 2004 field season, a Canadian Wildlife Service research

scientist and his team recorded a bear of near record size in the park. Weighing in at an estimated 767 kilograms, it was apparent that the 18-year-old male bear had experienced a great hunting season the previous winter. It was reported that the majority of bears in the population were healthy with plenty of body fat to get them through the summer.

cycle). In 2005, a document updating the key migratory bird terrestrial habitat sites in Nunavut and the NWT will be published by CWS.

**Conservation Areas as
Research Sites**

Aside from protecting valuable Canadian wildlife resources, several of the sanctuaries and wildlife areas in Nunavut serve as key research locations for migratory birds. Between 2000 and 2004, ongoing surveys and focal research projects have taken place in the Queen Maud Gulf, East Bay, Prince Leopold Island, Dewey Soper, Bylot Island, McConnell River and Seymour Island Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Inuit Heritage Trust

Introduction

The Inuit Heritage Trust (IHT) is dedicated to the preservation, enrichment and protection of Inuit cultural heritage and identity, and deals with issues of archaeology, ethnographic objects and archives. IHT activities are based on the principle of respect for traditional knowledge and the wisdom of Elders. Established in 1993, IHT receives its mandate from Articles 33

and 34 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

**Taloyoak Archaeology and Oral
History Project**

This community-initiated project focused on the archaeology and oral history of the Netsilik River area about 20 km from Taloyoak. Community members, Elders and students from Taloyoak gathered information with the assistance of the Inuit Heritage Trust, an archaeologist and an oral historian.

The goal is to make connections between archaeological sites and stories for future use.

**Repulse Bay Archaeological
Field School**

Each year the Inuit Heritage Trust hosts an archaeological field school for beneficiaries so that they can explore career opportunities while gaining practical experience. This year, at the Naujaat site just outside of Repulse Bay, 11 beneficiaries gathered for three



Naujaat participants

©Inuit Heritage Trust, 2004

weeks to participate in the field school. Though a few are continuing the study of archaeology and Inuit heritage further, others appreciated the knowledge gained about their ancestors and of the experience of living in a different community.

Heritage Sector Strategy

Inuit Heritage Trust, along with Canadian Heritage, the Government of Nunavut, the Rural Secretariat and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, have worked together to develop a project that would result in a strategy for Nunavut's heritage stakeholders. The goals are to identify areas

stakeholders want to focus on and how they may meet their goals within a reasonable time frame. An individual needs assessment was conducted in December 2004, followed by a workshop in Iqaluit in January 2005, with the final report issued at the end of March 2005.

Labrador Inuit Settlement Area

Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement

On January 22, 2005, the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* was signed, concluding 28 years of work between the Labrador Inuit Association and the Government's of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador. The first of its kind in Atlantic Canada, this *Agreement* sets out the details of land ownership, resource sharing and self-government.

The *Agreement* provides for the establishment of the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area of approximately 72,500 km² of land in northern Labrador, and an adjacent Ocean Zone of 48,690 km². The *Agreement* also provides for the establishment of Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve of Canada within the Settlement Area.

two agreements will ensure long-term protection and conservation of a spectacular 9,700 km² area of Northern Labrador's arctic wilderness in the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve.

The *Memorandum of Agreement for a National Park Reserve in the Torngat Mountains*, between Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador, sets out the terms and conditions by which the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has agreed to transfer the administration and control of the lands to establish the national park reserve to Canada.

The *Labrador Inuit Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement*, between Canada and the Labrador Inuit Association, formalizes the ongoing relationship between Labrador Inuit and Parks Canada. It ensures that the national park reserve will

highlight the unique relationship of Inuit with the land and its natural ecosystems, and includes provisions that allows for the continued traditional land and resource uses within the park reserve. This *Agreement*, which is required as part of the *LILCA*, also establishes a framework for the co-operative management of the park reserve by Parks Canada and Inuit.

It is expected that the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve will be formally established when the federal legislation that gives effect to the *LILCA* is enacted.

National Historic Sites

Hopedale Mission National Historic Site

Contact between the Moravian missionaries and the Inuit of

**Government of Canada –
Parks Canada Agency –
National Parks**

Torngat Mountains

On January 22, 2005, the federal Minister of the Environment signed two agreements in Nain, Labrador, that set the stage for the establishment of Canada's newest national park; the first ever in Labrador.

Along with the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (LILCA)*, which was also signed in Nain, the



Hopedale National Historic Site

©Geoffrey Hancock, 2002

Labrador in 1752 eventually led to the founding of several mission stations where the Moravians hoped to Christianize the Aboriginal population. Nearly all Inuit in Labrador converted to Christianity as a result of this cultural union, adopting many aspects of the Moravian way of life that profoundly changed their settlement patterns, subsistence economy, health, education and social relations.

One such mission station was built in Hopedale, a community located on the Northern Labrador coast amongst the large bays that open up to the Labrador Sea. The provisions storehouse, built by the Moravians in 1817, is the oldest surviving Moravian Mission building in Labrador and was designated of national historic significance in 1970. It is part of a complex of buildings that make up the Hopedale Mission National Historic Site of Canada. The entire site was designated in 1983, having been recognized as symbolic of the interaction between Labrador Inuit and the Moravian missionaries, and as fine examples of Moravian mission architecture in Labrador.

Since the designation Parks

Canada has been working in partnership with the Agvutuk Historical Society, with the continued support of the Labrador Inuit Association, to restore and present the buildings and artefacts. Work continues on interpretation, outreach and conservation, as does the development of the Commemorative Integrity Statement, which is near completion.

The Agvutuk Historical Society manages the site and they present not only the centuries-old history of the Moravian presence in Hopedale but also life before the mission, when Hopedale was called *Arvertók* ("place of the whales"). The history acts as a portal to appreciating and understanding life today in Northern Labrador and its place in Canada's diverse cultural heritage.

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency

Interpretation and Environmental Education

Parks Canada was invited to be a presenter at the Danish Outdoor Council's Interpretation and Environmental Education Conference in Nuuk, Greenland, in September 2004.

The concept of nature interpretation is fairly new in Greenland. One purpose of the conference was to present Greenlandic representatives with examples and models of

nature interpretation from other countries. This was accomplished by bringing together a group of experienced park naturalists and rangers from the circumpolar world to share their experience and expertise.

Two representatives of the Pan Northern Group demonstrated some of the programs that are delivered in the schools in the Western Arctic and Southwestern NWT. They also gained insights and ideas which can be incorporated into current programs in and around the northern national parks.

For More Information...

Additional information on the initiatives described in New Parks North can be obtained from the following offices:

National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservation Areas

Parks Canada Agency
Box 1166

Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N8

www.pc.gc.ca

Attention: The Editor

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Nunavut Territorial Parks and Heritage Rivers

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Yukon Historic Sites

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

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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,
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National Parks and National Historic
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