

New Parks North

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

MARCH 2000

www.newparksnorth.org

NEWSLETTER 9



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 *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (1993)* provides a process for the establishment of national parks, territorial parks, and conservation areas in Nunavut. The Government of Canada and Inuit signed an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement to establish three national parks in 1999. Negotiations are currently

underway on the proposed Ukkusiksalik national park in the Kivalliq region. Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements must be concluded for all existing territorial parks and for management plans for all existing parks and conservation areas.

The Yukon First Nations *Umbrella Final Agreement (1993)* has led, in turn, to seven First Nation Final Agreements: Champagne and Aishihik, Vuntut Gwitchin, Nacho Nyak Dun, Teslin Tlingit Council, Little Salmon/Carmacks, Selkirk and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, leaving seven other First Nations to negotiate theirs. The development of a Yukon territorial park system

and the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy must follow or complement the land claims process.

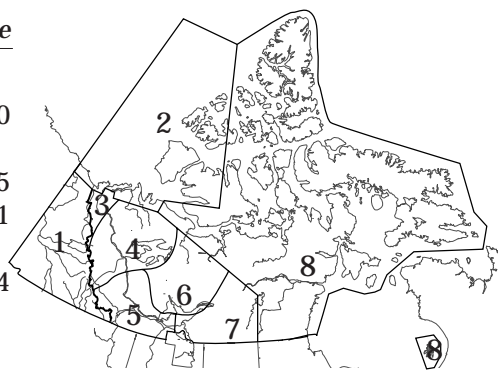
The Dogrib Comprehensive Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle was signed in January 2000. Land claim and treaty land entitlement considerations for all areas

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* Some overlap exists in claim areas

where claims are not settled will strongly influence the timing of conservation proposals in those areas.

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

New Parks North has its own Internet web site:
www.newparksnorth.org
Gordon Hamre, Co-Editor
Judi Cozzetto, Co-Editor

Aboriginal Land Claims

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

A Brief Overview

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

The evolution and development of the federal government's land claims policy has 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:

1. **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
2. **specific claims** - arising from alleged non-fulfillment of Indian treaties and other lawful obligations, or the improper administration of lands and other assets under the *Indian Act* or formal agreements.

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

Comprehensive Claims

The primary purpose of comprehensive claims settlements is to conclude agreements with aboriginal groups that will resolve the legal ambiguities associated with the common law concept of aboriginal rights. The objective is to negotiate modern treaties which provide clear, certain, and long-lasting definition of rights to lands and resources. Negotiated comprehensive claim

settlements provide for certainty for governments and third parties in exchange for a clearly defined package of rights and benefits for the aboriginal beneficiaries codified in constitutionally-protected settlement agreements.

Comprehensive claim agreements define a wide range of rights and benefits to be exercised and enjoyed by claimant groups. These may include full ownership of certain lands, guaranteed wildlife harvesting rights, participation in land and resource management throughout the settlement area, financial compensation, 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 groups. Key changes to the policy included the development of alternatives to blanket extinguishment of aboriginal rights, as well as provision for the inclusion in settlement agreements of offshore wildlife harvesting rights, resource revenue-sharing and aboriginal participation in environmental decision-making. The 1986 policy also provides for the establishment of interim measures to protect aboriginal interests during negotiations, and the negotiation of implementation plans to accompany final agreements.

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

Self-government negotiations may take place parallel to, or at the same table as, the comprehensive claims negotiations. The federal government is

prepared to consider constitutional protection of certain aspects of self-government where the parties to the agreement concur. Self-government must be negotiated in keeping with the 1995 *Framework for the Implementation of the Inherent Right and the Negotiations of Self-Government* policy.

Specific Claims And Treaty Land Entitlement

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

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

Parks Canada is currently involved in TLE discussions that concern Wood Buffalo National Park. The Salt River First Nation indicated its wish to select land within Wood Buffalo National Park as part of its TLE negotiations. The Minister of Canadian Heritage agreed to consider this request in 1997. Salt River First Nation is in the process of being split into two bands – Salt River

First Nation and Smith's Landing First Nation. The two bands are negotiating separately with Canada for their respective TLEs. Smith's Landing First Nation signed a Memorandum-of-Intent (MOI) with Canada and the Government of Alberta in December 1999. As part of this MOI, three reserve locations in Wood Buffalo have been set aside, totalling approximately 10 km². Guidelines for the use and management of the reserve lands within the park, and a land and resource management framework with Park officials, are set out in the MOI. Negotiations with Salt River for Indian Reserve land inside Wood Buffalo are also well advanced.

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.

One such proposal now under negotiation involves the Métis of the South Slave Region of the NWT. When the Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement was rejected by the aboriginal communities in 1990, the federal government decided to enter into regional claims with aboriginal groups in the

NWT. However, in the South Slave District, Dene people have opted to seek fulfillment of their Treaty 8 entitlement. This left eligible Métis in this area without a vehicle to press for their concerns. A

Framework Agreement was signed in August 1996 that outlines a two-stage negotiation process – land and resources and, after the signing of an Agreement-in-Principle, negotiation of self-

government issues. A pause in negotiations has been called by the parties in this process. When negotiations resume, they may impact on Wood Buffalo National Park.

Initiatives Spanning Two or More Claim Areas

Non-Government Organizations and Northern Parks

Non-government conservation organizations (NGO) play an important role in the establishment and management of northern parks in Canada. These organizations support protected areas in a variety of ways: biological research and mapping, public education and advocacy, conservation planning and training assistance for First Nations, other aboriginal peoples and communities. NGOs have been active in the north on a variety of conservation issues for decades, but the work on protected areas has increased dramatically in the last ten years. NGOs that focus on protected areas in the north are World Wildlife Fund Canada (WWF), Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) and, with respect to national parks, the Canadian Nature Federation (CNF). WWF Canada has offices in all three territories, CPAWS has chapters in the Yukon and NWT, while CNF is based in Ottawa. This

article mostly describes the work of CPAWS.

The Yukon and NWT chapters of CPAWS are part of a national organization dedicated to protecting wilderness and conserving biodiversity within healthy ecosystems. The national organization was established in the 1960s and is one of the main grassroots voices in Canada working on the creation of parks and other types of protected areas. CPAWS also focuses attention on the maintenance of ecological integrity within these protected areas and adjacent landscapes.

The Yukon Chapter was set up in 1991 to advocate the completion of a network of Yukon protected areas. CPAWS-Yukon works in affiliation with the WWF Canada Endangered Spaces Campaign, a national project to complete a representative system of protected areas. The Chapter was instrumental in supporting the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy (YPAS), and has worked on protected area campaigns throughout the territory. CPAWS-Yukon has

completed a variety of biodiversity research and mapping projects in co-operation with First Nations and Renewable Resource Councils.

During 1999, CPAWS-Yukon devoted most of its attention to the highest priority candidate areas identified in the YPAS, which fall into the northern part of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y). Y2Y is a co-operative citizen-led effort to conserve the wildlife habitat of the Rocky, Mackenzie and Selwyn Mountains through a network of protected areas and wildlife corridors.

The Fishing Branch watershed in northern Yukon is now protected, with a core area of 5,400 km² flanked by a habitat protection area of 1,000 km². CPAWS worked with the Local Planning Team and Vuntut Gwitch'in on the proposal. The Fishing Branch is the northern anchor of Y2Y, and will protect key chinook salmon spawning and grizzly bear habitat, along with a significant part of the Porcupine Caribou winter range. Also within the Y2Y

region, CPAWS helped ensure that the final boundaries for the Tombstone Mountain Park included all nine local ecosystem types - a goal that resulted in a park of 2,164 km² in the central Yukon (also see article on page 23).

In south-central Yukon, still within Y2Y, CPAWS-Yukon supported efforts to initiate a feasibility study for a new national park by completing four biological surveys in the Wolf Lake watershed, an area of some 10,000 km². This work was done in cooperation with the Teslin Tlingit Council and included First Nation Elders, local Renewable Resource Council members and scientists. Species in this multi-year research and mapping project are woodland caribou and their associated predators, and chinook salmon (also see article on page 21).

In the Peel River basin, in the traditional territory of the Teetlit Gwich'in and Nacho Nyak Dun, CPAWS-Yukon completed a background conservation research report for a 50,000 km² region in the Wind, Snake and Bonnet Plume watersheds, to be released in 2000. The research included three seasons of field work to assess grizzly bear habitat, vegetation, fish, small mammals and other species. First Nations and Renewable Resource Council members participated in the expeditions.

The CPAWS-NWT Chapter was established in 1996. The Chapter has hosted a national CPAWS conference on protected areas, assisted First Nations with protected area

proposals, and co-organized a Y2Y Conservation Initiative workshop in Fort Simpson. The Chapter also supported the development of the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) for the NWT, and is now assisting with its implementation in the Deh Cho, Sahtu and Gwich'in regions.

WWF has a strong presence in the NWT and Nunavut, with full time local co-ordinators. WWF has collaborated with many aboriginal organizations on conservation and protected area initiatives throughout the north. In the NWT, WWF was instrumental in developing the PAS, and is now fully engaged in implementation of several protected area proposals, such as the Saoyue (Grizzly Bear Mountain) and Ehdacho (Scented Grass Hills) area in the Sahtu and the Horn Plateau in the Deh Cho.

The protected areas work in the Yukon, NWT and Nunavut is part of a Canada-wide effort to complete a network of protected areas. The Endangered Spaces Campaign launched by WWF and CPAWS in 1989 aims to complete a national network of terrestrial and marine protected areas. In Canada's north, protected areas are established through co-operation with aboriginal organizations and communities.

Government of Canada - Parks Canada - National Historic Sites

Métis Commemoration Project

In November 1999, two papers on Northern Métis were submitted to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of

Canada for consideration. The first paper was an Executive Summary of *Picking up the Threads*, a study completed in 1998 that provides evidence of the rich and unique history of Métis of the Mackenzie. Still to be completed is the post-1950 period history, which saw the emergence of a distinct Métis political identity in the NWT, a gap that the Métis Heritage Association (MHA) considers essential to a "total" or comprehensive history. Compared to other aboriginal peoples, the history of the "New Nation" of the Northwest deals with the more recent or historic past, which was marked by renewal and the search for self-determination.

A number of important recommendations, based on consultations with the MHA, were tabled with the Board; among them, the importance of the Mackenzie River as the Métis voyageur highway in the North, and the identification of five places of particular significance to Métis of the Mackenzie Basin:

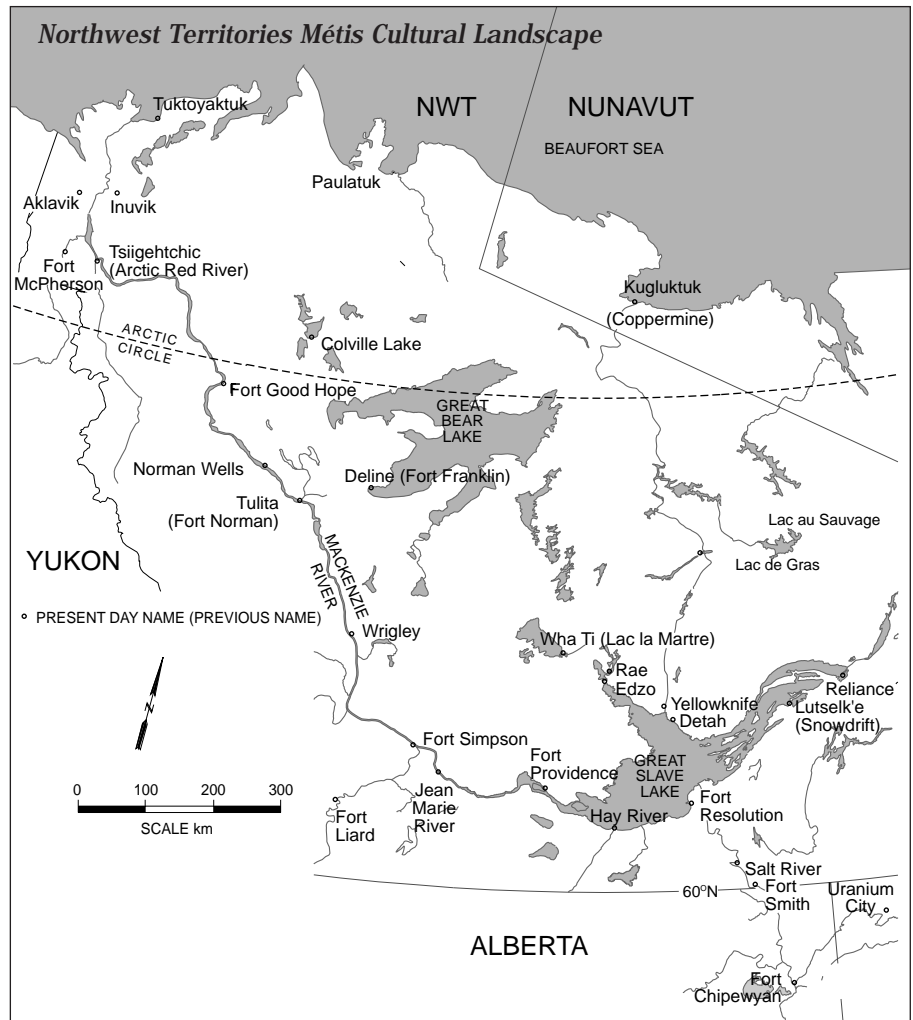
1. Salt River (near Fort Smith) associated with patriarch François Beaulieu;
2. old Fort Point (near Fort Norman), a Métis freemen trade and settlement site dating back to the early 19th century period of rivalry between Montréal-based fur traders;
3. old Fort Rae, associated with Métis fur trade activities in conjunction with the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC);
4. Pokiak Channel (near Aklavik), a 20th century Métis

community associated with steamboat transportation, trapping and trading; and

5. Hay River West Channel where Métis fishermen have worked in the commercial fisheries since the 1940s.

Métis also played key roles as brokers in Treaties 8 and 11, and as river pilots on the *SS Distributor* which travelled the Mackenzie between 1918 and 1947. The specific contributions of women, who played a major role in Métis society and economy and remain central to the survival and transmission of culture, were also highlighted. Catherine Beaulieu Bouvier, Élise Taupier Houle and Marie Fisher Gaudet are women whose achievements individually or collectively might be of national significance.

The second Agenda Paper was submitted on François Beaulieu. Beaulieu was a famous Métis leader who forged kinship ties with Dene and was equally proud of his coureur de bois *Canadien* heritage. Dene recognized Beaulieu as a Chief. As well, he founded the Salt River community on the Slave River where he pursued a mixed economy as hunter, trader, and entrepreneur in the salt trade. He possessed the spiritual powers of his Chipewyan Dene maternal ancestors and embraced the Roman Catholic faith of his forefathers, blending and adapting the two traditions. By the time of his death in 1872, the proud, independent and indomitable Beaulieu was the head of a fur trading empire that challenged



the HBC and ensured an economic base for Métis in the Mackenzie Basin in the 19th century, and their persistence as a people into the 20th century. It was recommended that Beaulieu be designated as a person of national historic significance for his important contributions to the history of Canada and his role as an outstanding and enduring Métis leader in the Mackenzie River Basin. The Fort Smith Métis Local and Salt River First Nation have jointly requested an enhanced commemoration befitting a founding father, in addition to the traditional bronze plaque, at the site of

the original family homestead in Salt River.

Proposed commemorative activities for the upcoming year include oral history interviews with Beaulieu descendants to address research gaps and establish the location of the Salt River homestead, and further consultations with MHA and local aboriginal associations to establish appropriate forms of commemoration. Longer term objectives are specific research on persons, places and events of potential national historical significance and the publication of an edited version of *Picking up the Threads*.

National Parks

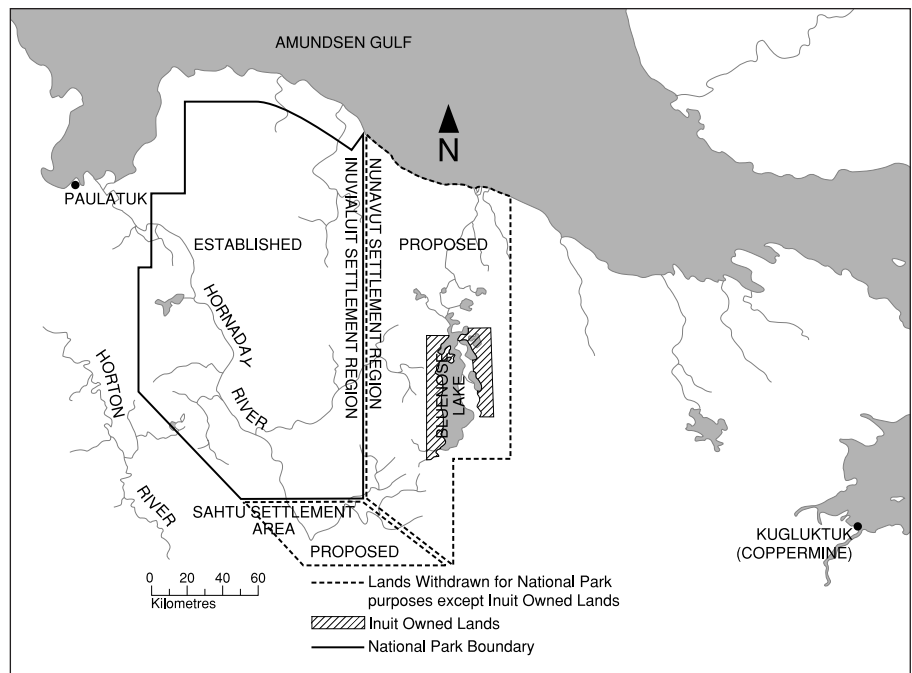
Tuktut Nogait National Park

Tuktut Nogait National Park was established within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region in December 1998. Parks Canada continues to be interested in expanding the national park to include lands within the Sahtu Settlement Area and Nunavut; however, the affected communities recently have been addressing matters of more immediate concern. Lands in both areas have been set aside until 2003 to protect them from disposition in the event that the parties wish to pursue negotiations.

Parks Canada and the Tuktut Nogait Management Board have prepared draft Interim Management Guidelines for the park. These guidelines are a commitment to the public regarding the protection and use of Tuktut Nogait, pending the development and approval of the Park Management Plan. A final Risk Assessment and Evaluation for the park has also been completed and an Interim Public Safety Plan is pending.

One of Tuktut Nogait's goals is to maintain the ecological and commemorative integrity of the park's natural and cultural resources. A monitoring program has been established to ensure that park managers are able to meet this goal. In 1999, a second weather station was erected in the park to monitor climate. Water quality monitoring and natural resource inventory continues in the park, as does financial contribution towards the operation of the Hornaday

Tuktut Nogait



River hydrometric station and support for the Hornaday River charr critical habitat study. The second phase of a three year vegetation mapping project and the first year of a multi-year archaeological site inventory have been completed.

In 1999 Parks Canada was involved in a number of educational and outreach initiatives. One of these initiatives involved a number of Paulatuk school children and Elders camping in the park for several days. Participants had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the park located in their back yard and to interact with various park staff.

Parks Canada continues to work closely with the Park Management Board, the residents of Paulatuk, various co-operative management bodies and diverse government agencies and stakeholders.

One of their priorities is to ensure that economic benefits from the park go to local residents. In 1999 the park employed five local residents for various terms. A temporary operation centre was established in Paulatuk in May and a Chief Park Warden is now on staff and a permanent resident of the community.

In December 1998, following the passage of legislation to establish Tuktut Nogait National Park, the Honourable Andrew Mitchell, then Secretary of State (Parks), announced a two million dollar accelerated funding commitment for employment and economic benefits related to the park. Following community consultations, a number of projects were identified that would employ the local work force and benefit both the park and the community of Paulatuk. These included a complete cleanup of

the watershed and coast line of Darnley Bay, the marking of the north and northwest boundaries of the park, and an eco-tourism training program that would prepare local residents to take advantage of future outfitting and guiding opportunities associated with the park and the local area. The first two projects have been completed. Funds have also been allocated for a Visitor Reception Centre and operations facilities to be constructed in Paulatuk by the end of 2000.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Marine Protected Areas and the Canadian Arctic

Canada's *Ocean Act* was passed in January 1997. Defined under the *Act*, a Marine Protected Area (MPA) is an area of sea that has been designated for special protection for one or more purposes. MPAs can be established to conserve and protect the following:

- commercial and non-commercial fishery resources, including marine mammals, and their habitats;
- endangered or threatened species and their habitats;
- unique habitats;
- marine areas of high biodiversity or biological productivity; and
- any other marine resource or habitat as is necessary.

The Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments, affected aboriginal organizations, land claims agreement bodies, and

coastal communities across Canada are in the process of working together to develop an Oceans Management Strategy (OMS) for the management of Canada's three oceans. The national strategy will be based on the principles of integrated management, sustainable development and the precautionary approach (which means to err of the side of caution). Under the *Act*, there are three complementary programs to be developed in support of Canada's OMS including integrated management, Marine Protected Areas, and marine ecological health. Five pilot projects have begun in Canada, four in the Pacific and one in the Atlantic.

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

In the western Arctic more than a decade of Task Forces, Commissions, and Land-Use

Plans have pointed to the value of stakeholder input to the planning process and the need for protection of the marine environment.

A MPA in the Arctic will require working closely with coastal communities and stakeholders within existing co-management frameworks that have been established under northern land claim agreements. A pilot MPA would provide an opportunity for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and northern communities to work together towards oceans conservation while stimulating local involvement and responsibility, enhancing opportunities for monitoring and guardianship of community areas, and improving decision making.

MPA "pilot sites" are based on adaptive management, which presents the opportunity of "learn by doing". Pilot sites are experimental, providing the integrated planning experience and stakeholder involvement needed to develop a MPA designation process that works and is sensitive to all parties involved. DFO is working with a number of stakeholders to make marine protection a reality in the Arctic Ocean.

A pilot MPA would provide an opportunity for co-operation, and focus on integrated ocean planning and management between DFO, aboriginal organizations, stakeholders, northern communities, other government agencies, industry and a variety of management boards. This process can ensure that the sites chosen represent

local, regional and national needs and values.

A pilot MPA can also complement already existing legislation and/or management plans that have been developed by other stakeholders. There are currently (or soon will be) three legislative tools for protecting marine areas in the NWT. They include Marine Wildlife Areas under the *Canada Wildlife Act* and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, an Act Respecting Marine Conservation Areas as proposed in Bill C-8 that is currently before Parliament, and Marine Protected Areas under the *Oceans Act*. Environment Canada, Parks Canada and DFO do not work in isolation. These agencies plan for areas of marine protection together.

Over the past year, DFO has been working on a variety of projects. Information is available for educational purposes and feedback. This information is useful in helping people to understand the *Oceans Act* and what its programs and initiatives are. If you would like more information, please contact the address listed on page 35.

Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

Teet'it Gwich'in Burial Sites in the Yukon

Upon the request of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute took part in discussions with Yukon First Nations and the Yukon Government regarding the

protection and management of Teet'it Gwich'in Burial Sites. Following meetings in Whitehorse in October 1998 and March 1999, guidelines dealing with the discovery of human remains and First Nation burial sites in the Yukon were developed and agreed upon by all parties (also see article on page 25).

Tombstone Park Oral History Project

Working in partnership with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy, Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute documented the traditional use of the upper Blackstone River area with Teet'it Gwich'in Elder Walter Alexie, who was born in this area. This work was carried out in order to ensure that the final park boundaries considered the traditional, historic and cultural values associated with this area (also see articles on pages 20 and 25).

Government of the NWT - Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development - Parks and Tourism



Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy

Protected Areas Strategy

The governments of Canada and the NWT approved the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) in September 1999. Work on the PAS began in 1996 and an Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives of aboriginal

and environmental organizations, industry and government, was established in 1997 to oversee preparation of the PAS. The PAS serves as a guide for identifying and establishing protected areas in the NWT while recognizing the unique environment, culture and land claim or aboriginal rights context of each region. Identification of proposed protected areas begin at the community level.

The first annual NWT Protected Areas Forum was held in February 2000. The main purpose of this forum was to review current community protected area initiatives and to report on the status of work completed and currently underway by government, with respect to commitments set out in the PAS.

One of the goals of the PAS is to protect core representative areas within each ecoregion of the NWT. Each ecoregion is composed of small habitat types called landscape units. They are distinct areas described by soil origin, development, texture and topography, and are used to approximate the habitat, and plant and animal species. An ecological workshop was held in September 1999 to:

- provide participants with information about this concept;
- provide an overview of protected areas completed and future work stemming from implementation of the PAS;
- consider how conservation biology relates to traditional knowledge in the planning context; and

- improve communications among participants.

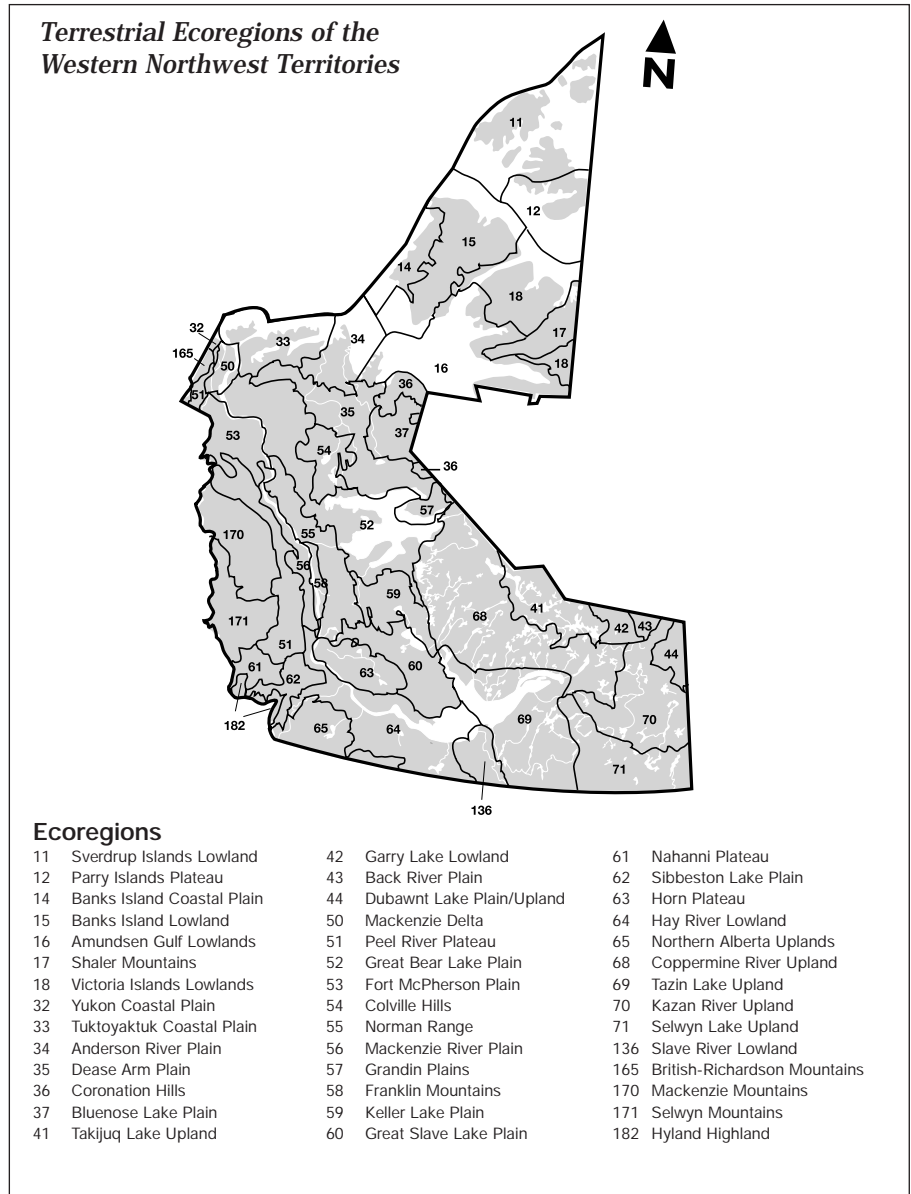
Concurrently, a mineral assessment workshop explored the issues of:

- the rationale for undertaking a resource assessment;
- the different types of resource assessment methodologies;
- the data and expertise required to undertake and interpret the results of an assessment; and
- an overview of the resource assessment approaches used by other jurisdictions.

A mineral resource assessment process for use in the NWT is being prepared as one of the commitments under the implementation of the PAS.

Under the PAS, the Liidlii Kue First Nation Council of Denendeh Resources is working to advance the protection of the Horn Plateau. Located approximately 100 km northeast of Fort Simpson, the Horn Plateau is a traditional harvesting area, a spiritually and culturally important gathering place for Deh Cho Dene, and is a unique ecoregion in itself.

A workshop held in Fort Providence in May 1999 discussed protection options for Mills Lake (known as *Tau* in Slavey). Historically used for hunting, fishing, trapping and other traditional activities, Mills Lake and its surrounding area have become invaluable to Dene and Métis of the Deh Cho. This area is also an internationally recognized staging area for migratory birds (also see article on page



14). The Fort Providence Tri Council Alliance is considering an "options paper" that seeks the Alliance's formal support for advancement of Mills Lake as a protected area.

The Gwich'in Land Use Planning (LUP) Board and the NWT Protected Areas Secretariat attended meetings in Dawson City to discuss protected area establishment and opportunities along shared boundaries with the Yukon Protected Areas Secretariat.

Protected areas have been identified in the Gwich'in LUP. Approved by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Government of the NWT in September 1999, the LUP is currently being reviewed by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

During an October 1999 workshop in Déline, the community voiced its support to seek surface and subsurface protection of the Saoyue

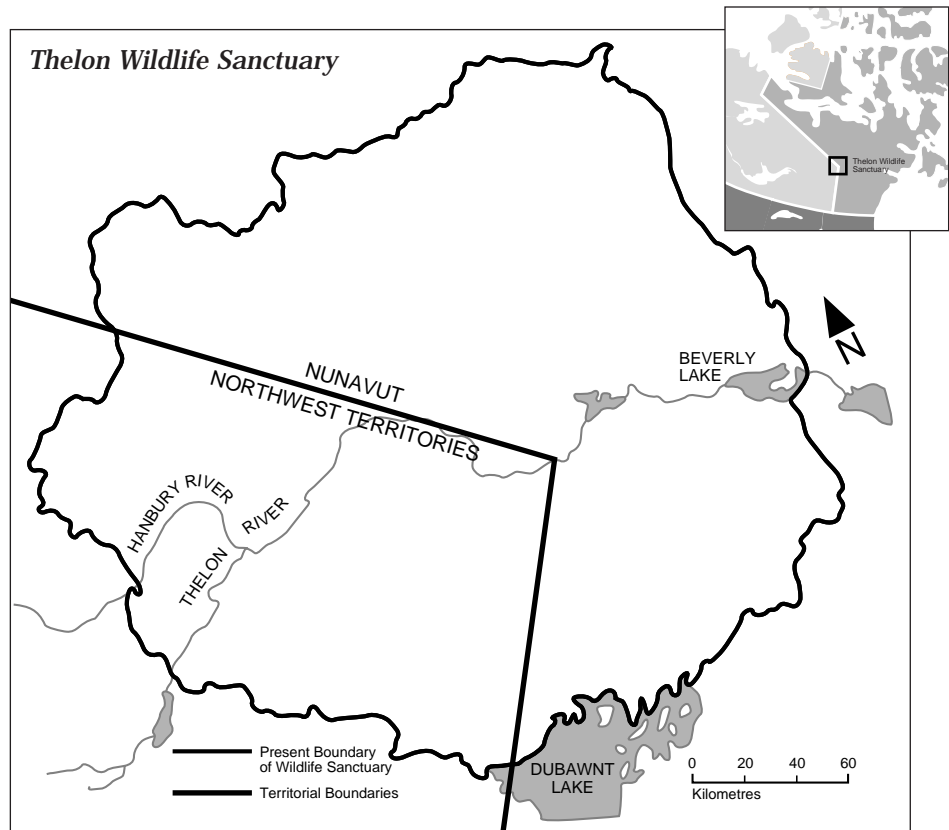
(Grizzly Bear Mountain) and Ehdacho (Scented Grass Hills) National Historic Site. In addition to the advancement of the site within the context of the NWT PAS, Parks Canada is working with the community to develop a Commemorative Integrity Statement and complete a Conservation and Presentation Plan (also see article on page 12).

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

Thelon River (and the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary)

The Thelon River, from its mouth at Baker Lake, through the Aberdeen and Beverly Lakes and bisecting the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary, remains a true wilderness river. It attracts an increasing number of visitors seeking a wilderness experience.

Some 275 km of the upper Thelon River passes through the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary. The sanctuary and the river valley are home to a caribou herd over 400,000 strong,



barren-ground grizzly, moose and muskoxen, and bird life including peregrine and gyrfalcon, bald and golden eagles, and a number of other raptors. Established in 1927, the 52,000 km² sanctuary is one of the largest protected areas in Canada, and among the most remote. A Management Plan has been

completed for the sanctuary in keeping with the obligations under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. The plan is being developed by Baker Lake and local Inuit associations and provides recommendations on the management and use of the sanctuary. It is anticipated that the plan will be approved in 2000.

Sahtu Settlement Area

Government of Canada - Parks Canada - National Historic Sites

Cultural Landscapes of National Historic Significance

Great Bear Lake lies astride the Arctic Circle, about 200 km south of the Arctic Ocean. The Déline Fishery on the western end of Great Bear Lake's Keith

Arm has been used by the ancestors of Sahtu Dene since time immemorial.

The traditional Dene fishery at Déline and the remains of Fort Franklin are commemorated jointly. Together they speak of the relationship that evolved in the 19th century between

Aboriginal people and Euro-Canadian explorers.

The designation of Saoyue (Grizzly Bear Mountain) and Ehdacho (Scented Grass Hills) as cultural landscapes of national historic significance are examples of sites that maintain the continuity of the cultural heritage of a people

who travelled extensively as they lived off the land. The relationship of stories to large tracts of land and the way these stories are passed down to the next generation is what is truly important about Sahtu Dene history.

Saoyue and Ehdacho are identified in the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* as heritage places and sites. Accordingly, the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group is to consider and make recommendations to the appropriate Minister or government agency and to the Sahtu Secretariat Inc. on these and other Sahtu heritage places and sites (also see following article).

Plaque Ceremony

On August 14, 1999, the designation of Saoyue, Ehdacho and the Déljine Fishery/Franklin's Fort as national historic sites were celebrated in the community of Déljine, NWT. The sites were commemorated by the unveiling of two trilingual plaques and six interpretive panels. This ceremony acknowledged the continuing efforts of the community of Déljine as they work in partnership with territorial and federal governments to ensure the protection and presentation of these sites. This was the first time such a large cultural landscape has been designated as a national historic site in Canada.

Next Steps

A Commemorative Integrity Statement (CIS) workshop was conducted for Saoyue and

GRIZZLY BEAR MOUNTAIN AND SCENTED GRASS HILLS

These are outstanding landscapes that blend the natural and spiritual worlds of the Sahtu Dene and help define them as a people. These majestic peninsulas evoke a mosaic of stories that assist in understanding the relationship between the land and Sahtu Dene culture and values. The rich legacy of legends, trails, beliefs, portages, myths, grave sites, and hunting and fishing camps is a testimony to thousands of years of Dene life. The extensive oral tradition brings the history of the Sahtu Dene alive and signifies the importance of these sacred lands to them and to the heritage of Canada.

MONT GRIZZLY BEAR ET COLLINES SCENTED GRASS

Ces paysages exceptionnels, où se fusionnent le naturel et le spirituel, contribuent à définir comme peuple les Dénés du Sahtu. Ces péninsules leur ont inspiré de nombreux récits qui nous aident à comprendre la relation entre les valeurs culturelles et l'environnement. Sentiers, portages, lieux de sépulture, camps de chasse et de pêche, mythes, légendes et croyances incarnent la manière de vivre des Dénés depuis des millénaires. Aujourd'hui, la tradition orale anime leur histoire et révèle toute l'importance de ces terres sacrées, pour eux et pour le patrimoine canadien.

Sah Zhúé Hé ?edahcho

Sahtúgot'ne ?ededine gogháre dání dene k'ij s'ij neh dáhórat' ?eyi gháre Nehwahts'ne ts'é niwáli zats'it'e k'j k'ets'aradi. ?odézhá zehda góh'í nídhé Sahtúgot'ne gots'é neh hé gonáowéré hé gokadáh hé lait'e h'ij. Dánéht'e xai gots'é dene kejlé s'ij ?odézhó nákejé, zehdzo hé lue kakejt', gokw'éné yáwela gháre keyagowhe. Sahtúgot'ne gháre degodi k'ézo gokada hé ?ederi nénéh dáodéché gogha bet'áoreza gots'é dirí neh Canada héredi gha k'óla.

DÉLJINE FISHERY AND FRANKLIN'S FORT

For thousands of years the Sahtu Dene have cooperatively used Déljine ("where the water flows") as their major year-round food source, because the water does not freeze over. They shared this abundant fishery with Sir John Franklin's exploration party in 1825-1826, enabling it to establish winter quarters here. Dene hospitality encouraged further European expeditions but added pressure to Déljine, eventually forcing some Dene to move to other fisheries. The Déljine Fishery and the remains of Franklin's Fort speak eloquently of the interrelationship between the Sahtu Dene and the first Europeans.

LES PÊCHES DE DÉLJINE ET LE FORT DE FRANKLIN

Depuis des millénaires, parce que l'eau n'y gèle jamais, la communauté des Dénés du Sahtu utilise Déljine («là où l'eau coule») comme principale source d'alimentation accessible à l'année. En 1825-1826, ils partagèrent ce riche lieu de pêche avec les membres de l'expédition de Sir John Franklin, permettant à ces derniers d'hiverner sur place. Grâce à cette hospitalité, les Européens organisèrent d'autres expéditions, lesquelles ont cependant forcé des Dénés à se déplacer vers d'autres lieux de pêche. Déljine et les vestiges du fort de Franklin témoignent éloquentement des premiers rapports entre les Dénés du Sahtu et les Européens.

Déljine ?ue Dáhk'é Hé Franklin Bekqk'é

Yahnij dáné't'e xai gots'é Sahtúgot'ne ke Déljine xao gháre lue kakat'j, déogha t'e detjle hé. 1825-1826 ?ákú Sir John Franklin hé dene ke kátone k'ij, la xao Déljine dene hé nákeydá ?eyi gots'é m'óla lo Déljine gots'é ?ájj zezhi t'á Sahtúgot'ne g'úú gots'é lue kakemwe. ?eyi Déljine lue h'jka ?agot'j hé ?eyi Franklin ?ode bekqk'é g'ó?o gogháre ?eyi Sahtúgot'ne hé ?ala m'óla gota nda t'á z'eleta dene keilé keyagowhe.

Ehdacho National Historic Sites in late October 1999. The CIS workshop for the Déljine Fishery and Franklin's Fort was conducted in 1996. The CIS states what is of national significance about a site and describes the health or wholeness of a site. A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity when:

- the nationally-significant resources and values of the site are neither impaired nor under threat;
- the reasons for the site's national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public; and

- the site's heritage values are respected by all whose decisions and actions affect the site.

Representatives from the community of Déljine, the Government of the NWT, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, World Wildlife Fund, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society-NWT and Parks Canada came together to develop a consensus on the contents of the CIS and to discuss the next steps regarding these two sites:

- Completion of a conservation and presentation report – a

Parks Canada requirement to apply to the national cost-share program (a program that provides assistance to national historic sites not owned by Parks Canada). This report will outline a specific plan of action of further work to be done if needed, identify who will do the work, when and at what costs; and

- Advance further work within the process laid out in the NWT Protected Areas Strategy.

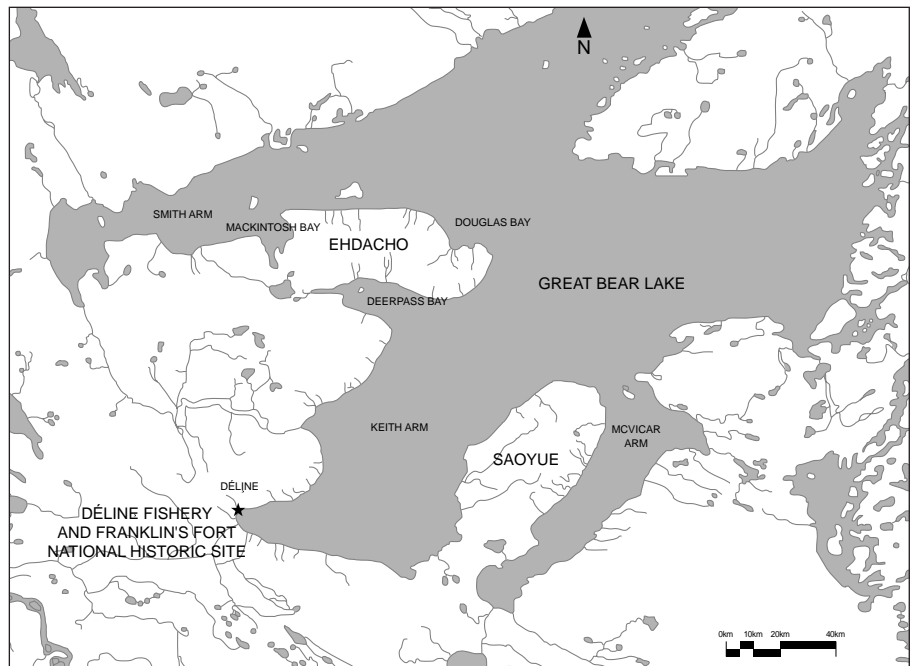
Parks Canada continues to work with the community of Déline towards the long term protection and presentation of all four sites.

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

Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group

The Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group (SHPSJWG) was created through the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*. It is charged with the responsibility of making recommendations to

Sahtu National Historic Sites



appropriate federal and territorial ministers regarding the commemoration and protection of Sahtu heritage sites. The SHPSJWG has two appointed members representing the Sahtu Secretariat Inc., and one member representing each of the federal and territorial governments. A fifth member, elected by the four, serves as chair.

In August 1999, the SHPSJWG completed its final report, which recommends

commemoration of, and various levels of protection for 42 sites important to the cultural heritage of Sahtu Dene and Métis. The sites were chosen following extensive fieldwork in the communities of Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake, Tulita, and Déline, and represent a wide variety of historic and cultural sites, ranging in size from less than a hectare to linear trails many kilometres in length. The final report was released in January 2000.

Dene and Métis Claims Areas (South Mackenzie)

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

Mills Lake

The wetlands around Mills Lake, a widening of the Mackenzie River 40 km downstream from where it exits Great Slave Lake at the confluence of the Horn River, are important staging habitat

for migratory waterfowl moving up and down the Mackenzie Valley. From 1994 to 1997, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) conducted aerial surveys at Mills Lake to obtain data on the numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds staging at Mills Lake during the spring and fall migrations. These are the first such data from Mills Lake since the early

1970s. Fort Providence is interested in protecting Mills Lake for both subsistence and cultural reasons, but private land holdings in the area are a complicating factor. CWS is working with the Fort Providence Band and other interested parties to explore conservation options for Mills Lake.

Dogrib First Nation

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

Dogrib Caribou-skin Lodge Replication Project

Following the repatriation of Bear Lake Chief's caribou-skin lodge in 1997 from the Natural History Museum in Iowa City, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) has again teamed up with the Dogrib Community Services Board, Chief Jimmy Bruneau High School, and the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council to assist a group of Elders in replicating two copies of the original lodge. In 1998 the partners opened a temporary exhibit to display and commemorate the lodge, which proved very popular with Dogrib Elders,

school groups, and the general public. However due to the age and fragility of the lodge the exhibit was dismantled in October 1998 and was placed in storage at the PWNHC. Because of the great interest demonstrated by the public, the partners decided that two copies of the lodge should be created – one to used in a permanent display at the PWNHC, and one for use in the Dogrib school system. Seventy tanned caribou hides will be needed to complete the project. Thirty-eight hides were collected in September 1999, during the Dogrib community caribou hunt on the barrenlands, and in October a group of Elders from Rae began the tanning process. The remaining hides will be supplied by the outlying Dogrib

communities of Rae Lakes, Wekweti, and Whati. In May 2000, the Elders will begin cutting and sewing the hides to finish the lodges, which will be unveiled at a celebration during the Dogrib annual assembly in the summer of 2000. The entire process will be recorded on videotape and a 30-minute documentary of the project is planned. Partial funding for the project has been received from the Museum Assistance Program (administered by the Department of Canadian Heritage), Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (Government of the NWT), and through contributions-in-kind from the partners. Additional funds will be sought from corporate and private sponsors.

Gwich'in Settlement Area

Government of Canada - Parks Canada - National Historic Sites

Nagwichoonyik

Gwichya Gwich'in invited Parks Canada to work with them to advance the commemoration of Nagwichoonyik National Historic Site in the fall of 1999. During a two day trip on the Mackenzie River, the Tsiigehtchic Steering Committee and staff of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute shared their knowledge and explained the cultural values of the river and the many important sites along it. The trip concluded with a one day workshop in Tsiigehtchic where the impressions of the trip were moulded into a Commemorative Integrity Statement. Gwichya Gwich'in hope to use this document to support the planning of the presentation of these sites to visitors.

The trip highlighted the importance of both traditional stories and the cultural resources connected to places along the river. Existing and old camp sites, the ancient stone quarry at Thunder Creek, and the network of trails reaching back from the river are visible features on the landscape speaking to the long and continuing Gwich'in presence on Nagwichoonyik. Associated with these places were stories – stories that spoke of the creation of the world, stories of Gwich'in heros who shaped the present,

stories about relations with neighbours, stories of meetings with newcomers and stories that re-inforced and cemented family relationships and cultural values to place.

Nagwichoonyik National Historic Site represents an integral part of the Gwich'in cultural landscape and offers both the community and visitors an opportunity to explore, consider and respect the Gwich'in presence and contributions to Canada (also see article on page 16).

Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

Gwich'in Ethnobotany Project

Ethnobotany is the study of the traditional use of plants for food, medicine, shelter and tools. For the past two years the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute in partnership with Gwich'in Elders and staff from the Inuvik Research Centre and Parks Canada, carried out a Gwich'in ethnobotany project. The report, which is being completed in 2000, identifies 34 species of plants by their Gwich'in, scientific and local names, and provides information on where each plant can be found and how it can be used. A few recipes are also included for making medicine. Thirty dry-mounted displays of the plants were prepared and kits containing the report and displays will be sent out to the five schools in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Gwich'in Dictionary Project

The dictionary is a long-term project being carried out by Gwichya Gwich'in and Teetlit Gwich'in Elders, Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and Gwich'in Language Centre staff. The third edition of the Gwich'in Noun Dictionary was published this year and contains over 2,700 words in Gwichya and Teetlit Gwich'in dialects. Words and terms from previous oral history projects were added to this expanded version, as were kinship terms and words related to traditional activities recorded during trips on the land and in workshops in Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic over the summer. A sound chart with explanatory notes is also included in this edition. The main goals of producing this dictionary are to:

- record the rich vocabulary of older fluent speakers that is most at risk of being lost;
- be a tool for present learners of Gwich'in helping them with unfamiliar vocabulary; and
- provide a practical and easy-to-use reference that will standardize the way Gwich'in is written.

The words in the dictionary have been entered into a computerized database program for easy access. The long-term goal is to produce a CD-ROM of the dictionary database which will include an oral component so words and phrases in the dictionary can be heard and the CD can be

used as a tool for those interested in learning the language.

Gwich'in Language Plan

One of the most recent initiatives is the development of a long-range language plan to revitalize the use of Gwich'in. This is part of an overall strategy by the Government of the NWT (GNWT) to devolve funding and responsibility for language programs to the seven aboriginal language groups in the NWT. Approached by the GNWT, the Gwich'in Tribal Council and Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI), in addition to the six other aboriginal groups, are now developing these plans. As community consultations began, it became clear that community programs alone would not reverse the erosion of the Gwich'in language, which is now in the advanced stages of decline and requires action on a number of fronts. As a result, the perspective has been broadened to include all areas that impact on the status of the Gwich'in language, including the administration of programs, language policy, education, research, translation and interpretation services. The end result is a language plan that builds upon many of the initiatives that are currently underway. As a more comprehensive strategy to revitalize the Gwich'in

language in the communities of the Gwich'in Settlement Area, the plan outlines the roles that Gwich'in leadership, Gwich'in organizations, bands, schools, translators, the Gwich'in Language Centre, GSCI and the communities will play in the next five years. It also includes many ideas for keeping the Gwich'in language alive such as: language immersion camps on the land; classes for adults; developing a language curriculum and teaching materials targeted at different grade and learning levels; a local strong teacher training program; radio lessons; and a pre-school program similar to the Maori language nest which has been so successful in New Zealand.

Teetlit Gwich'in Place Names Project

Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute staff has reviewed information collected during previous Teetlit Gwich'in oral history projects and entered this information into a computerized database. The database now contains detailed oral history information on the area between Fort McPherson and the Wind River, with an emphasis on traditionally used sites along the Peel River. A draft report of this information was reviewed with Teetlit Gwich'in Elders in late March 1999 in order to finalize the report. Further work will be

carried out to clarify names and add oral history information for areas not covered to date, as funding becomes available.

Ehdiitat Gwich'in Place Names Project

Early in 1999, Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, in partnership with the community of Aklavik, began place names research in Aklavik. Ehdiitat Gwich'in Elders were interviewed about traditional names for geographic features of the Aklavik land use area, and stories and legends associated with these names or places were recorded. Approximately 200 place names, and related oral history information about many of these places, were gathered. The research has built up previous ongoing work in the Teetlit Gwich'in area.

Nagwichoonjik National Historic Site

Working with the community of Tsiigehtchic and Parks Canada, Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) began to carry out commemorative activities along a stretch of the Mackenzie River, designated Nagwichoonjik National Historic Site in January 1998. The text for two plaques at the eastern and western boundaries of this stretch (Thunder River and Point Separation) were written, and several of the major trail heads

leading from the Mackenzie River inland were marked with traditional markers called *njoh* (lobsticks). A river trip and Commemorative Integrity Statement workshop were held with Parks Canada personnel, community members, the Gwich'in Tribal Council and GSCI staff to set the direction for management of this site and future commemorative activities (also see article on page 15).

Gwichya Gwich'in Land Use and Community History Book

In 1996, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, with funding from Parks Canada, worked with the community of Tsiigehtchic to draft the first version of land use and community history. Unique for the Gwich'in Settlement Area, (GSA) this history contains Gwich'in place names, words, stories and other oral history information documented during place name and ethno-archaeology projects carried out in the community from 1992 to 1995, plus information from archival and published sources. This draft is currently being revised with funding received from Parks Canada, the Millennium Fund, the Government of the NWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment, the Gwichya Gwich'in Council and Tsiigehtchic District Education Authority. Funding is being raised in order to complete the

book in 2000. This book will be the first in a series of land use and community histories that will be produced in the next five to ten years for the GSA.

Tsiigehtchic Genealogy Project

In recent years Gwich'in Elders in the Gwich'in Settlement Area have become very concerned that many young people do not know to whom they are related and how. In partnership with the Gwich'in Enrolment Board, interviews with Elders and research of archival and church records has begun. In addition to building family histories, this research also provides a better understanding of traditional naming practices, traditional kinship terms that were used, and the traditional relationships between people.

The Anglican Church records in Fort McPherson are in English, and the records from Tsiigehtchic are in French, a result of the history of the church in the area. In 1860 the Roman Catholic Oblate Missionaries established a mission in the Gwichya Gwich'in area and from then, to approximately 1933, all births, baptisms, marriages, and death records were recorded in French. This has complicated the work of building genealogies for the community of Tsiigehtchic.

Copies of the Roman Catholic Church records were

obtained in 1997 and have now been translated into English. This information is being entered into a genealogical database and additional oral history research is being conducted to build on it.

Repatriation and Replication of Traditional Gwich'in Clothing

Two years ago Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI), under contract to the Government of the NWT, wrote a report based on a survey identifying museums and archives outside of the NWT containing Northern Athapaskan (including Gwich'in) and Métis collections. Working in partnership with the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) and the Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC), Gwich'in Elders and seamstresses, GSCI and PWNHC staff will visit the CMC and the Smithsonian Institution to examine traditional Gwich'in clothing in those collections and decide upon one suit to replicate. Two copies of the original will be replicated by seamstresses in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) using traditional materials and techniques of sewing and decoration. Upon completion, one copy will be exhibited in the GSA and the other will be displayed at the PWNHC.

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. Fishing Branch
6. Fort Selkirk
7. Fort Smith Mission
8. Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine
9. Gwich'in
10. Herschel Island
11. Hidden Lake
12. Ijraliq
13. Katannilik
14. Kekerten
15. Kuklok
16. Lansing Post
17. LaPierre House
18. Mallikjuaq
19. Montague Road House
20. Original Telegraph Office, Yukon Sawmill Co. Office (Dawson City)
21. Qaummaarviit
22. Rampart House
23. Ridge Road Heritage Trail
24. Robinson Road House
25. Shäwshe
26. Sylvie Grinnell
27. Tombstone
28. Twin Falls Gorge

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

29. Arvia'juaq NHS
30. Aulavik NP
31. Auyuittuq NP
32. Deline Fishery and Fort Franklin NHS
33. Fall Caribou Crossing NHS
34. Ivvavik NP
35. Kitigaryuit NHS
36. Klondike NHS (Dawson City)
37. Kluane NP
38. Kluane NPR
39. Nagwicheonjik NHS
40. Nahanni NPR
41. Our Lady of Good Hope Church NHS
42. Pingo Canadian Landmark
43. Quttinirpaaq NP
44. Saoyue and Ehdacho NHS
45. Sirmilik NP
46. Tukturnogait NP

47. Vuntut NP
48. Wapusk NP
49. Wood Buffalo NP
50. Yukon NHS (SS Klondike)

* **Areas Under Study**

51. Akpatok Island
52. Digges Island
53. FoXe Basin Islands
54. Mills Lake
55. Rasmussen Lowlands
56. Wolf Lake





+ *National Park and National Historic Site Proposals*

- 57. East Arm of Great Slave Lake
- 58. Northern Bathurst Island
- 59. Torngat Mountains
- 60. Tuktut Nogait
- 61. Ukkusiksalik
- 62. Utkuhiksalik

★ *Heritage Rivers*

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

▼ *Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals*

- 72. Beechey Island
- 73. Kusawa Lake
- 74. Northwest Passage/Franklin Expedition
- 75. Ram Plateau
- 76. Uvajuq

▲ *Proposed Heritage Rivers*

- 77. Coppermine

□ *Other Conservation Areas*

- 78. Ddhaw Gro Special Management Area
- 79. Harry Gibbons/East Bay Bird Sanctuary
- 80. Horseshoe Slough Habitat Protection Area

- 81. Iqalituq Nation Wildlife Area (proposed)
- 82. Kendall Island Bird Sanctuary
- 83. L'hutsaw Wetlands Special Management Area
- 84. Nirjutiqavvik National Wildlife Area (proposed)
- 85. Nitsutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area
- 86. Nordenskiold River Special Management Area
- 87. Old Crow Special Management Area
- 88. Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area
- 89. Prince Leopold Bird Sanctuary
- 90. Qaqaulluit and Akpait National Wildlife Areas (proposed)
- 91. Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary
- 92. Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area
- 93. Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary

Legend

- Existing parks, park reserves, game sanctuaries
- Proposed parks
- Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites
- National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)
- Areas Under Study
- +** National Park and National Historic Site Proposals
- ★** Heritage Rivers
- ▼** Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
- ▲** Proposed Heritage Rivers
- Other Conservation Areas

Council for Yukon First Nations Claims Area

Government of Canada - Parks Canada - National Historic Sites

Carnegie Library/Masonic Lodge

Carnegie Library was built in 1903/04 with a grant from the Carnegie Foundation. This two-storey building is remarkable both for the role it played in the cultural life of this remote Gold Rush town and for its form. As a library, the building connected the people of Dawson to the wider world through its books and magazines and the many meetings held there. The Library/Masonic Lodge was designated a National Historic Site in 1967 following a meeting of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) in Dawson that same year. In 1998, Masonic Order Yukon Lodge No. 45 requested the building be considered for funding assistance under the National Cost Sharing Program. Following an assessment that same year, the HSMBC approved the former Carnegie Library for cost sharing. Since then, a Commemorative Integrity Statement workshop has defined the values and objectives that are of national significance. In addition, an architectural assessment on the building has been completed, which included inspection of the structure and the interior and exterior cladding. A Conservation and Presentation Plan is the next step in the process, and should proceed this spring.

Tr'o-ju-wech'in Heritage Site

Tr'o-ju-wech'in was identified by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as a heritage site in their land claim agreement ratified in the summer of 1998. Since then a Tr'o-ju-wech'in Steering Committee, with First Nation, territorial and federal government representatives, has directed a research plan to prepare background material for a site management plan. The Committee is also preparing a nomination to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to have the site considered as a national historic site.

To support this work Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in established a heritage officer position to begin work on a comprehensive community-based oral history project. Working in co-operation with Han of Eagle Village, Alaska, and Gwich'in of Fort McPherson, the project is not only addressing the needs of the Yukon River study but has also contributed to the parallel study for the Tombstone Territorial Park. This project was jointly funded by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Parks Canada's New Sites Initiative and the Yukon's Renewable Resources Department (also see articles on pages 9 and 25).

During 1999, the Steering Committee has hosted a number of projects. Archaeology fieldwork has been positively received by the First Nation, as it offered training opportunities for their youth, uncovered a large number of important cultural resources and mapped out

some of the traditional fish camps for the community to visit. Background history of the site, and shared experience and knowledge of the development of aboriginal heritage sites have been an important element of the Steering Committee's preparation for the management planning process, scheduled to begin in the spring of 2000.

Other projects supporting the Tr'o-ju-wech'in heritage site include a study of historical salmon harvest management on the Yukon River, an environmental history of the Upper Yukon River and scientific studies of regional geomorphology, climate, terrestrial and aquatic ecology and hydrology. A Han ethnography was also completed early in the year. All of the site and region research will be presented at the Upper Yukon River Symposium in March 2000. This work and the Symposium are supported by an international partnership including Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Parks Canada and the US National Parks Service.

Kashxoot (Chief Jim Boss)

Commemoration

Elders of the Ta'an Kwach'in Council and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation have been working on biographies of their leaders for several years. In 1999 they agreed to honour some of these leaders in a more public way and identified Kashxoot (Chief Jim Boss) (1857 to 1950) as one leader who made particularly important contributions to Yukon First Nation people.

Kashxoot lived on Lake

Lebarge and made great efforts to mediate contacts between aboriginal and newcomer cultures in the southern Yukon during and after the Klondike Gold Rush. He was also a capable business man, operating several road houses on the lake and selling wood to the river boats. Kashxoot's leadership and wisdom ensured calm reactions to the excesses of the day. However, he is best known as the father of the land claims, having filed a legal request for redress and accommodation with the federal government in 1900. Kashxoot's letter sparked only a limited response at the time, resulting in a number of small reserves being surveyed for Yukon Indians. His action is now generally recognized as the first formal request for negotiation of a land claim agreement in the Yukon.

In the fall of 1999, Elders of the Ta'an Kwach'in and Kwalin Dun First Nations directed the preparation of a nomination of Kashxoot to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. This nomination will be considered by the Board at its fall 2000 meeting.

Yukon Heritage Resources Board Conference

In October 1999, the Yukon Heritage Resources Board organized the *Adäka* (Coming into the Light) conference. The conference was an interesting and well-attended opportunity for heritage agencies, community and First Nation representatives, and invited speakers from "outside" to consider the range of heritage issues facing Yukon people today. Sessions on heritage designation, cultural resource

repatriation, culture centres and the role of the arts and language in cultural survival were fully considered in the two day event. It was an important forum for the setting of directions for the future. Parks Canada was one of the sponsors of the conference, supporting the event both financially and with staff resources.

National Parks

Wolf Lake (Gooch Aa)

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

In early 1998, Parks Canada held initial discussions with the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Teslin Renewable Resources Council concerning a possible feasibility study for a new

national park in the area. In December 1998, the Government of Yukon released its Protected Areas Strategy, which identified the Wolf Lake (Gooch Aa) area as one of three priority areas for protected areas planning in the Yukon during 1999/2000.

Discussions and consultations are ongoing in Teslin to determine if there is local support for a park feasibility study, to be undertaken by a variety of partners and led by Parks Canada. In September 1999, four residents of Teslin visited Haines Junction to learn more about Kluane National Park and the relationship between that national park and the community. The Teslin Renewable Resources Council has asked the Yukon Bureau of Statistics to undertake a comprehensive community survey to investigate local attitudes and values towards resource management issues and protected areas. Survey results should be available in early 2000. A public open house, held in early 2000, learned more about Vuntut National Park and how the people of Old Crow benefit from the park; several residents of Old Crow made presentations in Teslin.

If the Teslin Tlingit Council, the Teslin Renewable Resource Council, the Village of Teslin and the Government of Yukon agree, the park feasibility study could begin in 2000.

Government of Yukon - Renewable Resources - Tourism and Parks

Special Management Areas

Protected areas are called Special Management Areas

(SMA) in the seven completed Yukon First Nation Final Agreements. Twelve SMAs have been set up to protect fish, wildlife and cultural values. Seven additional SMAs have been set up to protect heritage values. Some of these areas will eventually be designated under the *Yukon Parks Act*. Others will be designated under the *Yukon Wildlife Act* or other legislation.

Each First Nation Final Agreement sets out the roles and responsibilities of the First Nation, Yukon and federal governments with regard to SMAs identified in the respective Agreement.

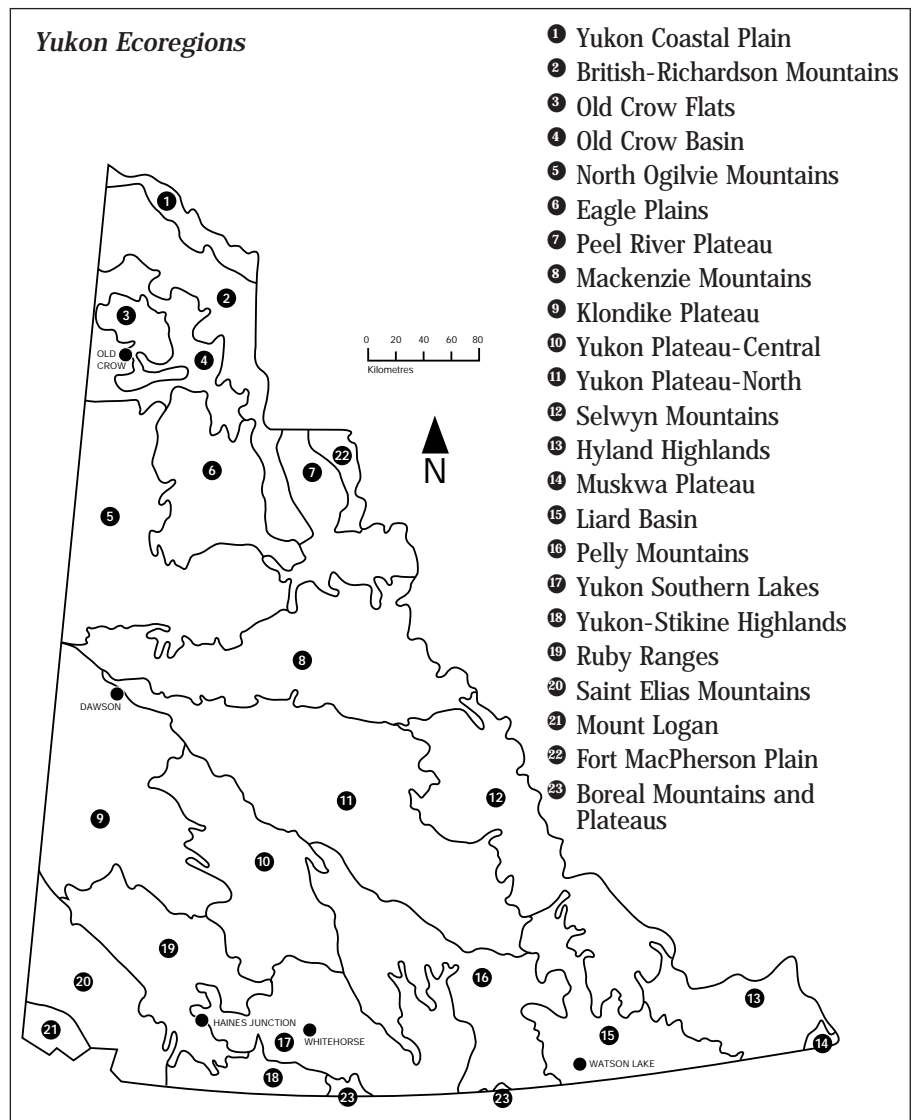
The federal government has a lead role in management plans for four of the 12 SMAs. The Heritage Branch at the Yukon Department of Tourism has a lead role in one of these SMAs. The remaining seven fall under the lead of the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources, which is now working with the appropriate First Nations to complete management plans for the following SMAs:

- Ddhaw Gro
- Ta'tla Mun
- Nordenskiöld River
- L'hutsaw Wetlands
- Horseshoe Slough

The last two SMAs are Tombstone Natural Environment Park, and the Fishing Branch Ecological Reserve which is now surrounded by a larger protected area; both are described below.

The Yukon Protected Areas Strategy

The Yukon Government (YTG) adopted its Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) in December 1998 and created a Protected



Areas Secretariat to implement it. The Secretariat is charged with the responsibility of developing a network of protected areas over the next few years.

The PAS relies on Local Planning Teams, made up of community representatives, government planning staff and conservation and industry interests, to oversee public consultation processes. The North Yukon Local Planning Team (NYLPT), the first set up under the Strategy, began its work in April 1999. YTG accepted the NYLPT final boundary recommendations for

the Fishing Branch protected area in December 1999.

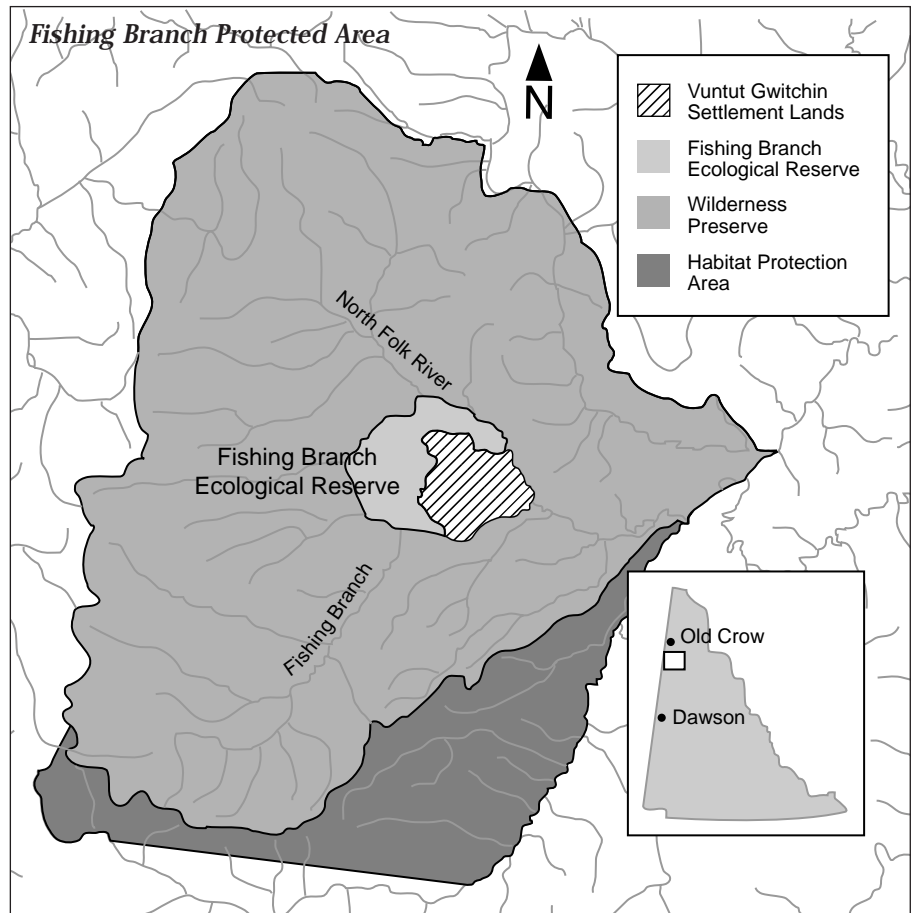
The work to create the boundaries for a proposed Tombstone Territorial Park arose out of the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement* and not the PAS. The work to recommend a final boundary was undertaken by the Tombstone Steering Committee made up of representatives nominated by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and YTG. The Tombstone Steering Committee's final boundary recommendations for a Tombstone territorial park were accepted in December 1999.

Fishing Branch Protected Area

In early 1999 the Yukon Protected Areas Secretariat identified the headwaters of the Fishing Branch River as a candidate protected area to represent the North Ogilvie Mountains Ecoregion and part of the Eagle Plains Ecoregion. Between April and November 1999, the North Yukon Local Planning Team (NYLPT) studied the ecological, cultural and economic values of the area, consulted with stakeholders and the public, and made recommendations to Yukon Government (YTG) on the final boundaries and level of protection that should be afforded the Fishing Branch area. In December 1999, YTG announced its decision to accept the team's recommendations.

Fishing Branch Protected Area (FBPA) consists of three specific conservation regimes.

1. Bear Cave Mountain, the core of the FBPA, was established as a Special Management Area under the *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement*, and will later be designated an Ecological Reserve under the *Yukon Parks Act*.
2. A 5,400 km² Wilderness Preserve, surrounding this core area, will be designated under the *Yukon Parks Act*. It will protect the watersheds of the Fishing Branch River and lower Cody Creek, both critical to the area's salmon/grizzly bear relationships. Development activities will not be permitted in the Wilderness Preserve.
3. An additional 1,000 km², surrounding the Wilderness Preserve, will complete the



FBPA. This area will be designated under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*, and will protect portions of the Miner River watershed. Development activities may be permitted, with regulations to protect wildlife values.

The NYLPT is now working with stakeholders and the public to prepare a management plan for the Fishing Branch area. Withdrawal of the Wilderness Preserve from mineral staking and transfer of the land from the federal government to YTG will lead to final designation and protection.

Tombstone Territorial Park

The Tombstone Steering Committee, set up in February 1999 under the terms of the

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement (THFA), was given the task of recommending park boundaries within a previously identified study area.

The *Agreement* directed the Committee to recommend park boundaries that capture:

- representative parts of the Mackenzie Mountains ecoregion, including the Ogilvie Mountains and Blackstone Uplands area,
- important physical and biological features, and
- sites of archaeological, historical and cultural value.

After eight months of study and consultation with stakeholders and the public, the Steering Committee recommended final boundaries to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon Government (YTG) in

November 1999. In December 1999, acceptance of the Committee's recommendations enabled YTG to designate the area as a natural environment park.

A 2,164 km² Natural Environment Park will be designated under the *Yukon Parks Act* to protect the unique diversity of habitats, wildlife, land forms and cultural resources in the Tombstone area.

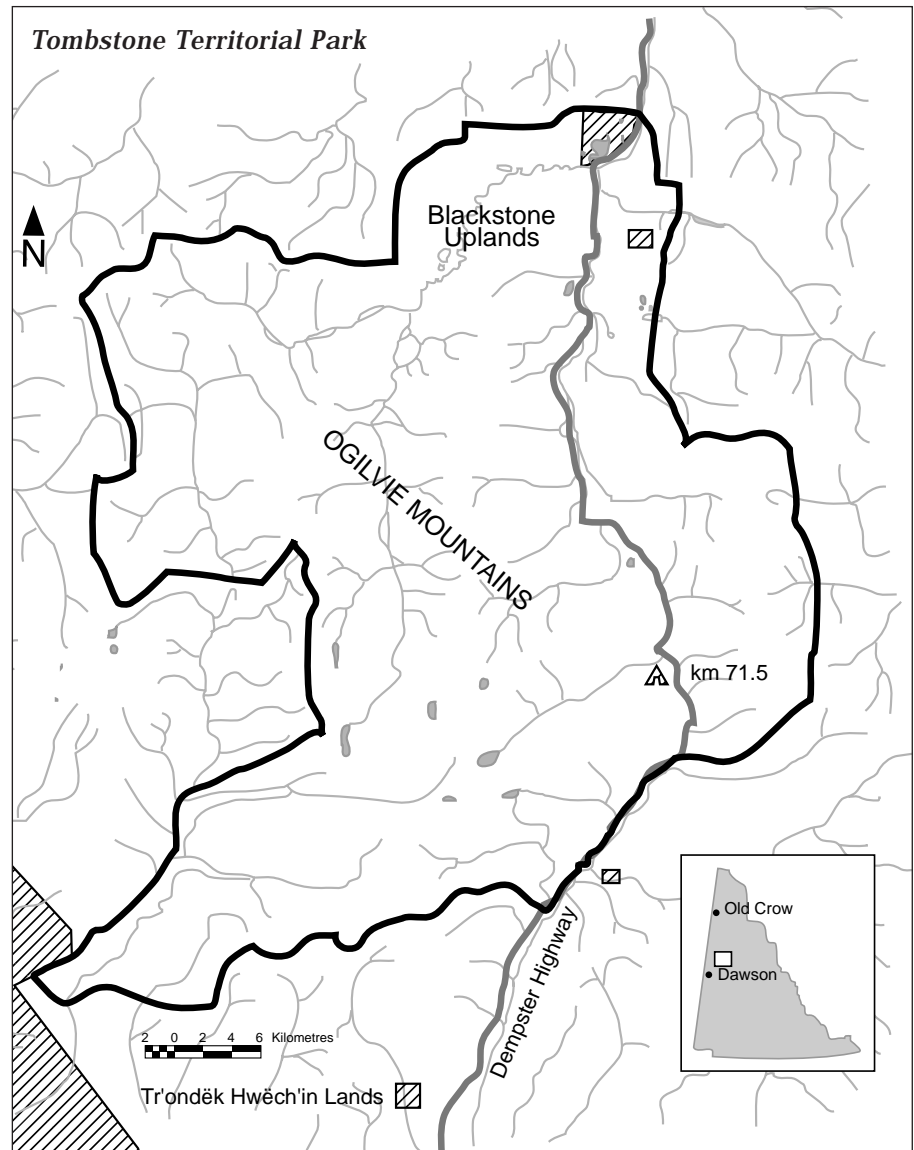
The Tombstone Steering Committee is expected to begin working with stakeholders and the public in March 2000 to prepare a management plan for the new park, as directed by the *THFA*.

Tourism – Heritage

Introduction

The Heritage Branch of the Department of Tourism, Yukon Government (YTG) is responsible for administering the *Historic Resources Act (HRA)* and implementing Yukon government obligations identified under the Council of Yukon First Nations *Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA)*, seven Yukon First Nation Final Agreements and the transboundary (Teetlit) *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (NWT)*. The Branch also administers federal archaeological sites regulations under the federal *Yukon Act*.

Chapter 13 of the *UFA* and each Yukon First Nation Final Agreement relates entirely to heritage and how ownership and management responsibilities are to be shared by First Nations, federal and territorial governments. The *HRA* was designed to meet and complement the provisions of



the *UFA*. These two documents serve to enable and guide the Branch in researching, protecting, preserving and presenting Yukon heritage resources.

Each Yukon First Nation Final Agreement provides a more detailed description of how certain resources are to be owned and managed. Because of their regional and territorial significance, a number of heritage sites within traditional territories are to be co-owned and co-managed by First Nations and YTG.

Dinosaur Tracks

A site near Ross River was an area of Yukon Government palaeontological research in August 1999. Discovered in the spring by scientists from the University of Alaska Museum, Fairbanks, the site revealed footprints and tracks of at least three different dinosaur species and fossilized plant life, dating back over 65 million years. The prints range from 10 to 45 cm in size. Research into the exact age and geology of the rock, and the variety of beasts and flora represented, is just

beginning. Protection and interpretation regimes are also being considered.

A return to the site in the spring of 2000 is planned, to record and map the site's extent and content. The only other documented evidence of dinosaurs in the Yukon is in the Bonnet Plume Basin, 450 km north of this site.

Tr'o-ju-wech'in

Tr'o-ju-wech'in is a former traditional Han fish camp on the Yukon River at the mouth of the Klondike River, opposite present day Dawson City. Han occupants were displaced in 1897 with the arrival of the Klondike Gold Rush and the establishment of Klondike City (Lousetown) on the site of the fish camp.

A second season of archaeological inventory and testing, with the assistance of a Yukon College archaeological field school, saw excavations at two locations relating to the traditional fish camp. This research has been a joint project of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Heritage Branch, and is part of the development of the Tr'o-ju-wech'in Heritage Site according to the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement*. The 1999 investigations identified one occupation level containing historic and traditional artifacts, and two underlying occupation levels of pre-contact age. Samples collected from a hearth in the lowermost and oldest level date back to c.1820 A.D. and include five chert end scrapers. Excavations also located and mapped overlying, *in situ* railway ties from the Klondike Mines Railroad. Test excavations were also carried

out on vintage Gold Rush building foundations located on the hillside (also see Dawson City article under this heading and article on page 20).

Yukon First Nation Burial Sites

Guidelines for dealing with the discovery of human remains and First Nation burial sites were finalized in 1999. The guidelines were discussed, developed and reviewed at workshops involving Yukon First Nations, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Heritage Branch and other government agencies in October 1998 and March 1999. This was a joint implementation project for provisions of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and *Final Agreement* Implementation Plans and reflects provisions of seven Yukon First Nation Final Agreements and the transboundary provisions of the (Teetlit) Gwich'in Tribal Council. The guidelines have been approved for implementation within the respective traditional territories (also see article on page 9).

Herschel Island Territorial Park

The process of reviewing and updating the Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan commenced in 1999 with several preliminary meetings involving the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) and the Inuvialuit Game Council. A scoping document to outline issues to be addressed and a schedule for development of the revised plan were drafted. Although heritage research and conservation of heritage resources have been completed since the development of the original

plan, capital maintenance and interpretive presentation are to be reviewed. When completed in 2000, the new plan will reflect the current demands for visitor services and the evolving use and operation of the park.

Rampart House and Lapierre House Historic Sites

The final draft of the combined management plan for Rampart House and Lapierre House Historic Sites was completed in 1999 under direction of a Joint Heritage Committee. Comprised of three appointees each from the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) and Yukon Government, the Committee oversaw the public planning process and ensured that the plan complied with the terms of the *VGFN Final Agreement*. Both sites are co-owned and co-managed by the First Nation and Heritage Branch.

Lapierre House, with few structural remains, will be allowed to relapse to a natural state after being fully documented. Architectural and archaeological records will supplement archival and oral history records to allow a low-level, unintrusive interpretation of the site. A nearby camping area and survival shelter are planned for travellers to avoid impacts on the fragile environment at the site on the Bell River.

Rampart House, on the Porcupine River between Old Crow and Fort Yukon, Alaska, will receive more intensive attention. In 1999 a log hewing/training project was carried out by Vuntut Gwitch'in and Bear Creek Restoration Services of Whitehorse, and a

new work camp area was cleared. These projects were carried out in preparation for extensive stabilization and restoration of existing structural remains. Several years of archival, oral history and archaeological research will be combined with a multi-year VGFN Traditional Lands Oral History Project, to provide extensive interpretation on and off site. The oral history project is being co-funded by Heritage Branch along with a number of other agencies.

Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site

A second year of preliminary archaeological investigations was carried out in 1999 with assistance of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in students. On the Yukon River, at the mouth of the Fortymile River, the town site of Forty Mile contained 600 residents and nearly 100 buildings in 1896 when gold was discovered in the Klondike. Today only a handful of buildings are still standing. Fort Cudahy was the site of a North American Trading and Transportation Company post and nearby Fort Constantine was the first North West Mounted Police post in the Yukon. In addition to the archaeological investigations, aerial photography and mapping were completed in preparation for commencing the management planning exercise in 2000. The historic site is co-owned and co-managed by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Heritage Branch. The *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement* calls for a joint steering committee to oversee development of a management plan reflecting the provisions of the *Agreement*.

Dawson City

A major inventory of historic buildings in Dawson City, and gravesites above the town, was completed in 1999. This is the first substantial update to the Canadian Inventory of Historic Building research carried out in the early 1970s, and indicates numerous changes to the historic properties. This revised inventory database will be valuable to the town of Dawson City in its pursuit of nomination to the list of World Heritage Cities. 1999 aerial photography and mapping allow a more comprehensive and accurate record of sites within the historic core of, and on the slopes above, Dawson City, at Tr'o-ju-wech'in/ Klondike City, and in West Dawson (also see Tr'o-ju-wech'in article under this heading).

The Ridge Road Heritage Trail in the Klondike Goldfields, just outside Dawson City, continues to be well used. The 23 km hiking, horseback and bicycling trail allows easy access over high ridges to the magnificent vistas and heritage of the Klondike. The Ridge Road Heritage Trail, as well as the Whitehorse/Dawson City Overland Trail, will be key components of the Trans Canada Trail in the Yukon.

Fort Selkirk Historic Site

Late in 1999 work began on revisions to the Fort Selkirk Management Plan, which was completed in 1990. Provisions in the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement*, as well as activities and changes to the site over the past ten years, require an update to the plan. Fort Selkirk Historic Site will be co-owned and co-managed by the Selkirk First Nation (SFN) and the

Heritage Branch and will officially be designated as a Yukon Historic Site.

Consultations with SFN and the public, during the planning process, will attempt to retain the original vision of Fort Selkirk as a "living cultural heritage site". A balance must be found between site visitation, visitor expectations and the tolerance of the historic, cultural and natural environment.

One of the most visible results of work at the site in 1999 is the re-introduction of fences in the town site proper. Absent for over 40 years, these historical features create an immediate visual impact on the cultural concepts of property and security. The installation of a submersible water driven alternator power system with solar collector and storage batteries on the Yukon River will greatly reduce the need for electric generators to work camp and kitchen operations.

Canyon City

The historic site of Canyon City on the banks of the Yukon River, just south of Whitehorse, continues to be a popular destination for locals and visitors alike. Guided tours of the site and river corridor provide a combined natural and cultural heritage interpretation of the area. A Yukon River Corridor Plan, commissioned by the City of Whitehorse in 1999, identifies Canyon City as a prime focus for heritage interpretation. Canyon City represents Kwanlin Dun First Nation traditional use as well as the origins of the city during the Klondike Gold Rush.

Mammoth Conference in 2003

The Third International Mammoth Conference will be hosted by Heritage Branch May 18 to 20, 2003. The first two conferences were held in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1995, and Rotterdam,

Netherlands, in 1999. The Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre, developed by Heritage Branch, will be part of the Yukon venue. The conference will bring together scientists interested in the woolly

mammoth and the Quaternary Period environment with expected highlights to include the most recent research of a frozen Siberian carcass.

Nunavut

Government of Canada - Parks Canada - National Parks

Auyuittuq, Quttinirpaaq and Sirmilik

The *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)* required government and Inuit to conclude an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) prior to the establishment of national parks in the Nunavut Settlement Area. The IIBA covers all three parks but there are sections to deal with certain park-specific provisions. Some sections of the IIBA are unique to Sirmilik because that park includes most of the existing Bylot Island Bird Sanctuary within its boundaries. The conservation regime for the sanctuary will remain in effect with the establishment of the national park.

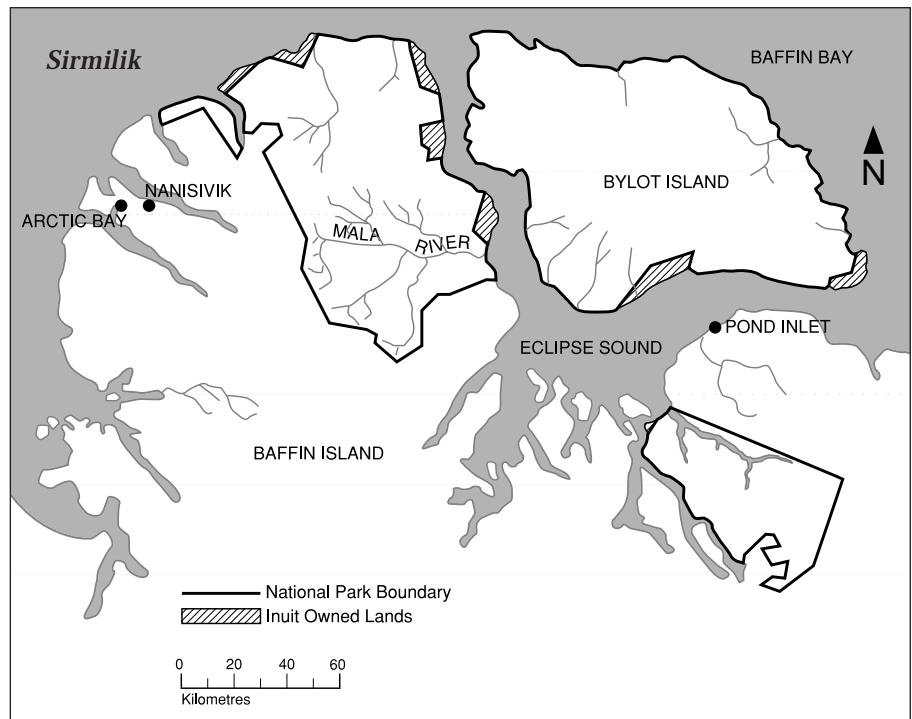
The IIBA was signed August 12, 1999, in Pond Inlet, a community known for its strong Inuit culture and heritage. Inuit youth and Elders performed for dignitaries in honour of this important day. The IIBA gives both Inuit and government the opportunity to

work together to achieve the goals and objectives they have in common – to maintain and preserve the natural regions of these areas. The terms of the *NLCA* require that government pass legislation to make all three, full national parks within one year of the IIBA signing.

Auyuittuq National Park has been in operation since the early 1970s with approximately 600 visitors a season. Winter

"freeze-up" and spring "thaw" limit travel to and from the park. Local outfitters will take visitors in by boat from early June to September, and by snowmobile or on skis from mid-February to the end of May.

Quttinirpaaq (formerly known as Ellesmere Island) National Park is seasonal from June to August, with approximately 150 visitors. Staff and visitors travel to



Resolute Bay then on to Tanquary Fiord where a base camp is located.

Sirmilik National Park, the newest of the three Baffin parks, offers spectacular scenery and wildlife viewing, and is rich in archaeological sites and cultural heritage, benefitting visitors with a rewarding wilderness experience. The operating season will be similar to that of Auyuittuq National Park, depending on daylight hours and ice conditions.

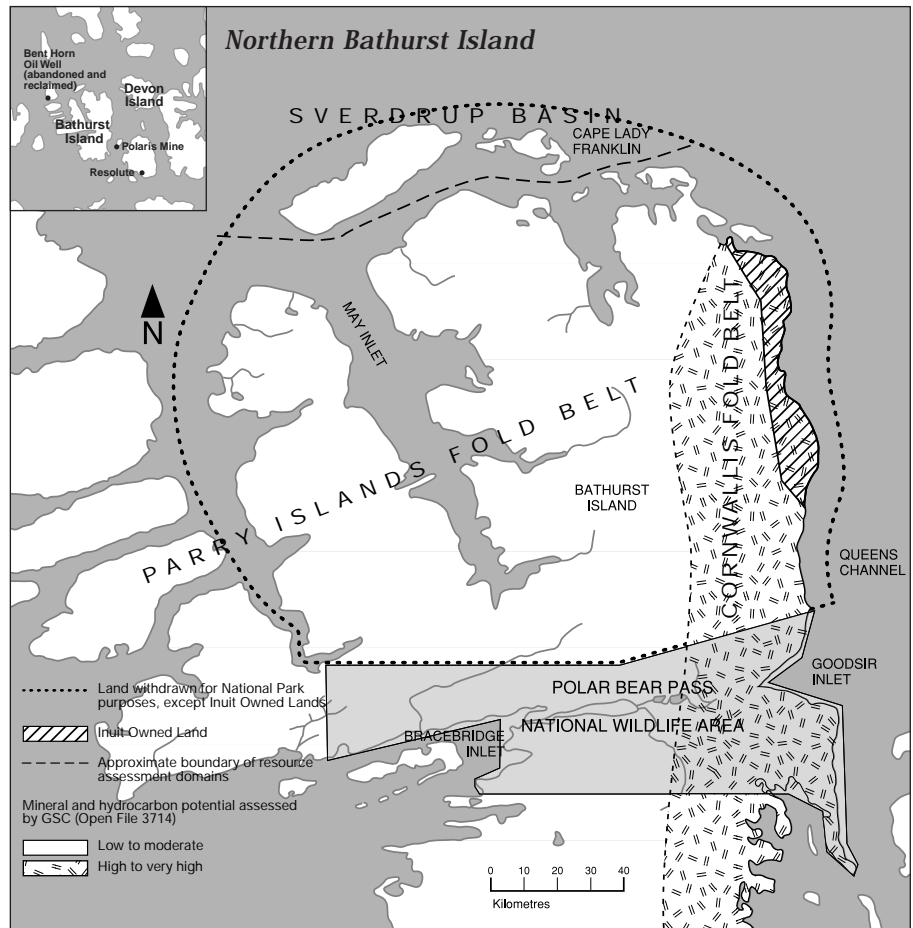
Senior management staff of the Nunavut Field Unit expect to relocate from Pangnirtung to Iqaluit by September 2000, followed by the Ecosystem Secretariat out of Ottawa.

Logistics are more manageable in terms of travel and getting out to the communities, and will provide more contact and services to adjacent park communities.

Northern Bathurst Island (Tuktusiuqviauluk)

Northern Bathurst Island is a good representation of the geology, landforms, vegetation and wildlife of the Western High Arctic Natural Region. It is also important habitat for Peary caribou, an endangered species found only in Canada's Arctic islands. As a result of severe winters the population of Peary caribou has decreased dramatically in the past few years. A major calving area for this species is found on northern Bathurst Island.

In October 1996, with the support of the community, Government of the NWT and Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the Prime Minister announced that



lands for the proposed national park had been reserved under the *Territorial Lands Act*. This will prevent third parties from registering new interests in the land (e.g. mining claims) until October 1, 2001.

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

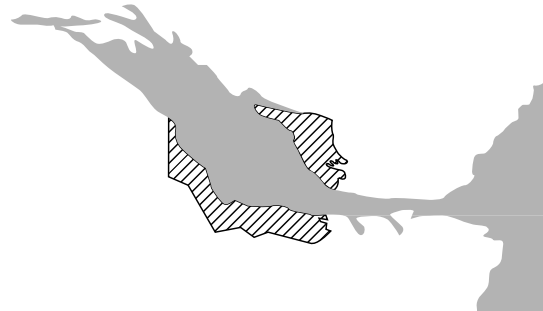
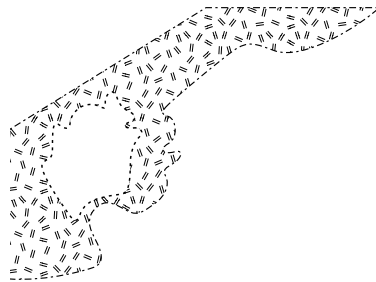
very high potentials for lead and zinc. To the northwest of Bathurst Island is the Sverdrup Basin, which hosts large reserves of oil and gas.

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

demonstrated by Polaris Mine and past-producing Bent Horn Well.

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

Since the release of the final MERA report, the new park feasibility study has been completed. Governments and Inuit are now in a position to determine whether or not to proceed to the next step in the park establishment process – formal negotiations regarding terms and conditions of park establishment. In accordance with the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, such negotiations would take the form of an Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA). If both parties agree, IIBA negotiations could begin in 2000.



Ukkusiksalik (Wager Bay)

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

This long-standing proposal was first suggested in 1978. Public consultations started after the *NLCA* was completed and formal negotiations began in May 1997. The parties

expect to conclude negotiations in 2000.

Ukkusiksalik would represent the Central Tundra Natural Region. The heart of the park proposal is Wager Bay, an inland sea that extends 100 km westward from Hudson Bay. The proposed park area includes an impressive variety of land forms including eskers, mudflats, cliffs and drumlins. A wide range of habitats occur supporting such wildlife as caribou, muskox, wolf, arctic hare, peregrine and gyrfalcon. Coastal elements are prominent and a major marine component is included in the park proposal. Wager Bay has eight metre tides and strong tidal action that produces a dramatic reversing waterfall. Two areas of salt water remain open year-round and this contributes to the rich marine mammal life which includes polar bear, beluga, ringed and bearded seal. Cultural resources are prominent: over 500 archaeological sites have

been found in the area and they include such features as fox traps, tent rings, food caches and inuksuit. The abandoned 20th century Hudson's Bay Post and Roman Catholic mission add to the human story of the area and Inuit residents from Kivalliq communities continue to travel to the area to hunt and fish.

Environment Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service

New Initiatives and Existing Conservation Areas

The *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)* devotes an entire chapter to conservation areas, including two National Wildlife Areas and 12 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries which are administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). Requirements of the *NLCA* include negotiation of an

Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for most conservation areas, and the production of management plans for all of them. CWS is working on the IIBA and management plans for several of the areas described above. CWS and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. are discussing ways to conclude IIBAs for Nunavut's CWS Conservation Areas, including the development of an Umbrella IIBA document.

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

Igaliqtuuq National Wildlife Area

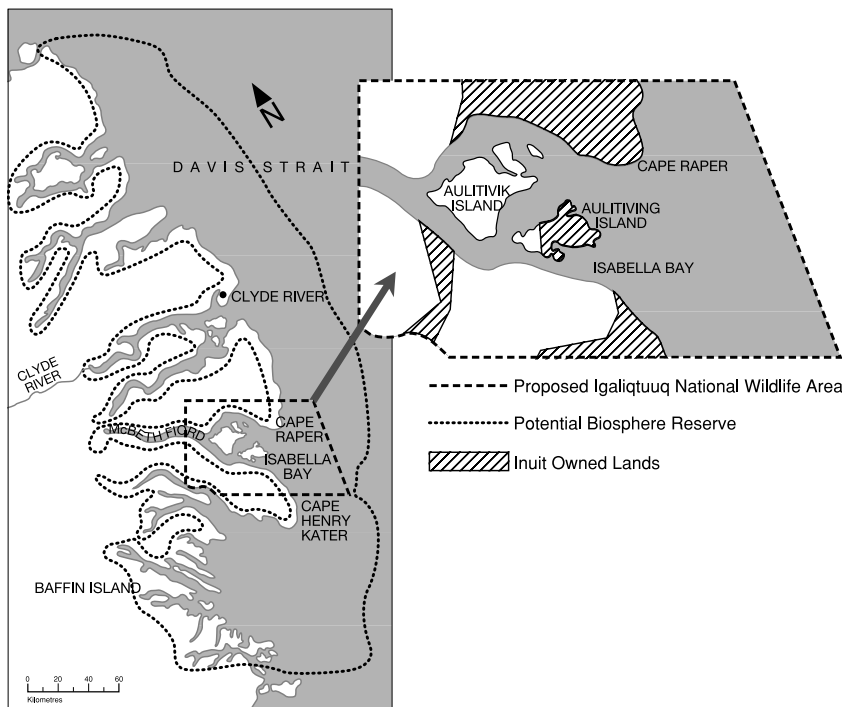
In 1992, the community of Clyde River proposed the creation of Igaliqtuuq National

Wildlife Area (NWA) to protect important bowhead whale habitat at Isabella Bay, Baffin Island. The boundaries for Igaliqtuuq were approved by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in June 1994. A planning committee composed of representatives from the Nangmoutaq Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) and federal and territorial governments has completed a draft of the NWA's management plan. Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) negotiations between the HTO and the federal and territorial governments began in September 1997 resulting in a draft IIBA in February 1998. Final negotiations began early in 2000. Upon conclusion of the IIBA, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) will execute the formal designation process for the NWA. In August 2000, CWS will collaborate with Clyde River to begin habitat mapping and biological inventory work at Isabella Bay.

Nirjutiqavvik National Wildlife Area

Coburg Island and the surrounding waters were proclaimed a National Wildlife Area (NWA) on August 30, 1995. The NWA, located off of the southeastern tip of Ellesmere Island, comprises one of the most important seabird nesting areas in the Canadian Arctic. Up to 385,000 thick-billed murres, black-legged kittiwakes, northern fulmars, and black guillemots nest on the precipitous cliffs on the south coast of Coburg Island, and on Princess Charlotte Monument, a small

Igaliqtuuq

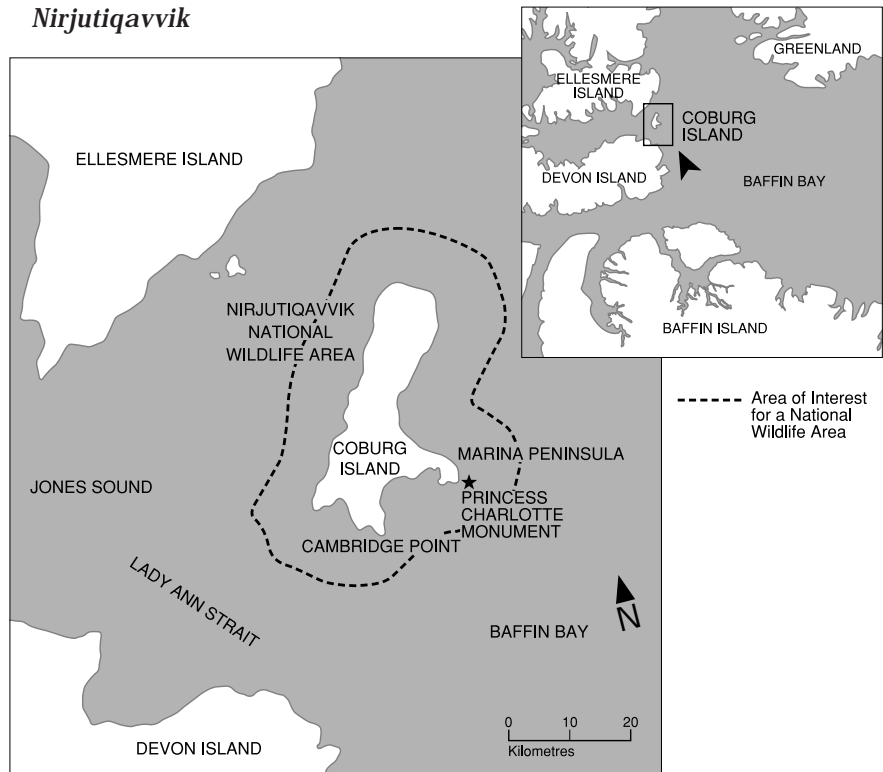


islet near the Coburg Island colony. The close proximity of Coburg Island to year-round openings in the sea ice (polynyas) in Baffin Bay and Lady Ann Strait provides abundant food for the birds and attractive habitat for polar bears, ringed and bearded seals, walrus, and migrating narwhal and beluga.

An ad-hoc management committee composed of representatives from Grise Fiord, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), and the Government of the NWT - Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development - has determined goals and objectives for the NWA management plan. Further work on the management plan was halted, pending commencement of the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA). In late 1997, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) received Designated Inuit Organization status for Nirjutiqavvik. After preliminary discussions with CWS, QIA decided to delay the start of negotiations until the Igaliktuuq IIBA is completed. When the Igaliktuuq IIBA is concluded, CWS expects to commence the Nirjutiqavvik IIBA negotiations with the QIA.

National Wildlife Areas at Qaqalluit (Cape Searle) and Akpait (Reid Bay)

Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) studies in the 1970s identified important seabird colonies at Qaqalluit (Cape Searle) and Akpait (Reid Bay), two sites approximately 70 km southeast of Qikiqtarjuaq (formerly known as Broughton Island). Rock towers at



Qaqalluit support several species of marine birds, including a northern fulmar colony estimated at 100,000 pairs, or about 27% of the Canadian population of this species. Cliffs at Akpait support several types of marine birds as well, notably a colony of 200,000 thick-billed murres (14% of the Canadian population). Through the late 1980s and early 1990s, CWS brought forth a proposal to designate these sites as Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, but support was not forthcoming from the nearby community. In 1999 the Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq received support from the Nativik Hunters and Trappers Organization, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and the Qikiqtarjuaq Community Land Development Committee to reopen the discussions

regarding protection of these sites as National Wildlife Areas. The Hamlet contacted CWS to begin these discussions. Initial meetings between the Hamlet, CWS and Inuit organizations will take place in 2000.

Cape Dorset Migratory Bird Sanctuary

The Cape Dorset Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) was established in 1958 to protect three groups of islands for breeding eiders, principally common eiders. It was estimated that 5,000 common eiders bred in this area in the early 1950s. However, following the increased harvest pressure (hunting, eggging, and down collection) that accompanied Inuit settlement of Cape Dorset in 1966, eider breeding populations on the islands declined dramatically (a drop from 1,100 pairs on

Sakkiak Island in 1955 to no eiders in 1984).

With the disappearance of the eiders, the reason for maintaining the sanctuary disappeared too. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development's Northern Mineral Policy (1986) committed the federal government to a review of all MBS boundaries. Canadian Wildlife Service conducted such a review in 1989 and concluded that the Cape Dorset Sanctuary was the only candidate for delisting. In late 1999, the Cape Dorset MBS was officially delisted by the federal government, meaning that this sanctuary no longer exists.

New CWS Office in Nunavut

On September 1, 1999, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) opened its new Nunavut office in Iqaluit. Most CWS conservation areas in Nunavut will be managed out of the Iqaluit office, including issuing permits to conduct activities in Nunavut's Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas. CWS-Nunavut staff can be contacted at the address on the back of this publication.

Government of Nunavut - Department of Sustainable Development - Parks, Trade and Tourism Division

Mirnguiqsirviit - Nunavut Parks

Nunavut, which means "our land" was formed on April 1, 1999. It is more than one-fifth of Canada and contains more than two-thirds of its shoreline. Since the Thelon

Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1927, over 300,000 km² of parks and conservation areas have been protected in Nunavut.

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

The Department of Sustainable Development is responsible for parks, tourism, wildlife management, economic development and other matters related to activities on land, and how people use and benefit from this resource in Nunavut.

Nunavut Territorial Parks and the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement

The 1993 *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* changed the role that government plays in the protection of the environment for Nunavut. This *Agreement* recognizes the value of parks and conservation areas, and defines an approach to the establishment of protected areas, including community involvement, management, and impact and benefit measures. Meeting these obligations is a necessary first step to establish parks and conservation areas. Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement negotiations for

territorial parks within Nunavut will continue in 2000.

A New Nunavut Parks Program

The Government of Nunavut has committed to the development of a Nunavut Park Program (NPP) to identify the roles and values of parks and conservation areas in and for Nunavut. The NPP will review the relationships between existing national and territorial parks and conservation areas, heritage rivers and other proposed measures such as marine conservation areas in Nunavut. When complete, the NPP will ensure long-term contributions to the goals of Nunavut and its communities through tourism, recreation, habitat protection, economic growth and sustainable development. The NPP will be followed by the creation of a parks and conservation areas system plan and related changes to parks legislation and policy to guide future development of parks and conservation areas in Nunavut.

Kuklok (Bloody Falls) Park

Kuklok (formerly known as Bloody Falls) lies 15 km upstream from the community of Kugluktuk on the Coppermine River. The park landscape, rolling tundra interrupted by escarpments and rocky outcrops, and steep cliffs along the river and at the Falls, provides for great wildlife viewing, fishing, hiking and camping. The area has become a well-used one-day canoe trip from Kugluktuk and nearly all canoeing and rafting parties descending the Coppermine River choose to

camp at Kuklok. Local use of the area by community residents for camping and fishing is increasing, and reflects the traditional pattern of use for the site.

Bloody Falls, designated a National Historic Site in 1978, lies within Kuklok Park. Remnants of Thule winter houses used more than 500 years ago, archaeological evidence of caribou hunting camps dating back over 1,500 years, Pre-Dorset use of the site more than 3,500 years ago, and a rich history of Arctic exploration begin to demonstrate the historic significance of the site. Because of this rich and important heritage, the Coppermine River is being considered for a Canadian Heritage River nomination.

Given the increasing use of the area and concerns that the natural and cultural values could be at risk, representatives of the community and the Department of Sustainable Development are participating in the development of a park at Kuklok. A conceptual park management plan was prepared in 1995 and approved by the community. A community survey and meetings helped to identify the primary goals of the park including protecting the archaeological sites, maintaining the area free of litter, and limiting the impact of all-terrain vehicles (ATV) by improving a defined route. Improvements to the ATV trail outside of the park are ongoing and will be extended into the

park, along with facility and interpretive design and development.

Kekerten Territorial Park

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

Heritage Rivers

Kazan River

From Kazba Lake, near the border of Nunavut and Manitoba, the Kazan River flows north to Baker Lake through the boreal forest to the treeless barrenland of the Canadian Shield.

The valley of the Kazan was an important hunting ground for Inuit, and vast herds of caribou, along with muskox, wolves and other Arctic wildlife, can still be found. Peregrine falcons and other birds of prey nest along its rocky banks, and tundra swans are found along swampy lakeshores. At Kazan Falls, the river plunges over 25 metres and then rushes for two kilometres through a red

sandstone gorge between sheer rock walls. The river's history is represented by over 185 archaeological sites over a distance of 500 km, and Fall Caribou Crossing National Historic Site where Inuit hunters waited for the annual migration of the Kaminuriak caribou herd.

Soper River

The Soper River (named after northern biologist Dewey Soper, but locally known as the "Kuujuaq" or Great River), the largest in South Baffin, winds its way through Katannilik Park from the Meta Incognita Peninsula to Soper Lake and then mixes with the salt waters along the south coast of Baffin Island. Tides over 10.6 metres occur at the Soper Falls, where "reversing" currents caused by high tides at Hudson Strait mix fresh tundra water and salt water from the ocean.

Its valley, sheltered from harsh winds, has a microclimate that is slightly warmer than ecosystems found at similar latitudes, and supports a "forest" of willows up to 3.6 metres high, and a landscape rich with sedges, heathers and berries not found elsewhere in the Arctic Islands. The valley has a long history of Inuit heritage and a variety and unusual concentration of wildlife including caribou, fox, hare and, more recently, polar bear.

For more information ...

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

NWT Territorial Parks, Heritage Rivers and NWT Protected Areas Strategy
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Nunavut Territorial Parks and Heritage Rivers
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NWT Cultural Resources
Education, Culture and Employment
Culture and Heritage Branch
Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
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Yukon Territorial Parks, Heritage Rivers and Yukon Protected Areas Strategy
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NWT Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas
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Marine Protected 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.

We welcome your comments addressed to the Co-Editors at the National Parks and National Historic Sites address above.

