

New Parks North

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

March 2004

www.newparksnorth.org

Newsletter 13



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. Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements must be concluded for all existing territorial parks and for management plans for all existing parks and conservation areas.

Within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, approximately 18% is conserved by national parks and managed in a co-operative manner by Parks Canada and agencies created under the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*

(1984) or otherwise by agreement with Inuvialuit.

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

The *Tłı̨cho Land Claims and Self-government Agreement* was signed on 25 August 2003 in Rae-Edzo (Behchokò), NWT. Government and the Deh Cho First Nations have signed a Framework Agreement and an Interim Measures Agreement. These Agreements mark significant steps in the Deh Cho Process toward negotiating a final agreement. The Northwest Territory Métis Nation (formerly known as the South Slave Métis) is currently working with government toward an agreement-in-

principal. Land claim and treaty land entitlement considerations for all areas where claims are not settled will strongly influence the timing of conservation proposals in those areas.

The *Yukon First Nations Umbrella Final Agreement (1993)* has led to nine First Nation Final Agreements: Champagne and Aishihik, Vuntut Gwitchin, Nacho Nyak Dun, Teslin Tlingit Council, Little Salmon/Carmacks, Selkirk, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Ta'An Kwäch'än and Kluane. Five First Nations claims remain to be finalized. The development of a Yukon territorial park system must follow or complement the land claims process.

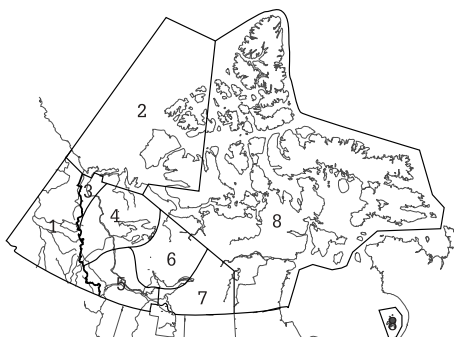
New Parks North has been organized by claim area or settlement region. These areas are indicated on the map on the front page.

– Judi Cozzetto, Editor

Yukon, NWT and Nunavut Land Claim Settlement Regions

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* Overlap exists in claim areas

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Aboriginal Land Claims

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

A Brief Overview

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

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

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

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

Comprehensive Claims

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

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

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

Significant amendments to the federal comprehensive claims policy were announced in December 1986,

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

The 1997 Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Delgamuukw* 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.

Other Claims

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

Deh Cho

After the failure of the *Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* in 1990, the Deh Cho First Nations (DCFN) requested the establishment of a Deh Cho Territory and their own process to deal with the Crown. The Deh Cho Process is the governance, lands and resources negotiations among federal and territorial governments and the DCFN. Negotiations have resulted in a Framework Agreement and an Interim Measures Agreement. The Framework Agreement sets out the scope, process, topics and parameters for negotiation of an agreement-in-

principle and a final agreement. The Interim Measures Agreement provides for participation of the DCFN in the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management regime; a regional land use planning process that will facilitate resource development; an interim management arrangement for Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada; and interim land withdrawals and the negotiation of a resource development agreement. DCFN and Parks Canada formed the Nahzà Dehé Consensus Team (NDCT); a team of seven people consisting of two appointees by Deh Cho First Nations, two appointees by the Nahanni Butte Dene Band, and three appointees by Parks Canada. The NDCT has completed an Ecological Integrity Statement and reviewed the Park Management Plan for Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada. The Consensus Team may make recommendations to the Superintendent and Grand Chief on interim management arrangements for Nahanni.

Northwest Territory Métis Nation

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

When the *Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* failed to be ratified by a

majority of the Aboriginal people of the Mackenzie Valley in 1990, the federal government decided to enter into region claims in this part of the NWT. However, in the South Slave District, the Akaitcho Treaty 8 Dene originally opted to seek fulfillment of their treaty land entitlements rather than enter into a regional comprehensive land claim. This left some Métis in the area without a vehicle to press for their concerns. The then Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development offered to enter into a non-rights based process with the Métis of the South Slave District to deal with their concerns. A Framework Agreement was signed in August 1996 that outlines a two-stage negotiation process - land and resources and, after the signing of an agreement-in-principle, negotiation of self-government issues. Negotiations toward an agreement-in-principle are continuing.

Akaitcho Treaty 8

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

Nunavut

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency National Parks

Ukkusiksalik National Park of Canada

On Saturday, August 23, 2003, the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) to establish Ukkusiksalik, Canada's 41st national park, was signed in Iqaluit. Participants came

from all over the north and various parts of southern Canada to witness this ceremony. Dignitaries included the Prime Minister, the President of the Kivalliq Inuit Association and the Premier of Nunavut.

Following the ceremony, officials and dignitaries flew to Repulse Bay for a community feast and dance. Residents provided all manner of country foods (seal, walrus, muqtuq,

caribou, fish) and bannock of every possible type. Speeches were made and gifts were exchanged between the parties involved. Inuit and government now look forward to a respectful working relationship in the future.

Ukkusiksalik represents the Central Tundra Natural Region, and encompasses approximately 20,500 km². At the heart of the park is

Wager Bay, an inland sea that extends 100 km westward from Hudson Bay. The park area includes an impressive variety of land forms and a wide range of habitats, supporting such wildlife as caribou, muskox, wolf, arctic hare, peregrine, gyrfalcon, polar bear, beluga, ringed and bearded seal. Inuit residents from Kivalliq communities continue to travel to the area to hunt and fish.

As required by the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, the Governments of Canada and Nunavut, and the Kivalliq Inuit Association, on behalf of all Inuit, negotiated the IIBA. The IIBA set out the conditions for the creation of the national park and includes: 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 park lands has been extended until October 1, 2004.

Northern Bathurst Island

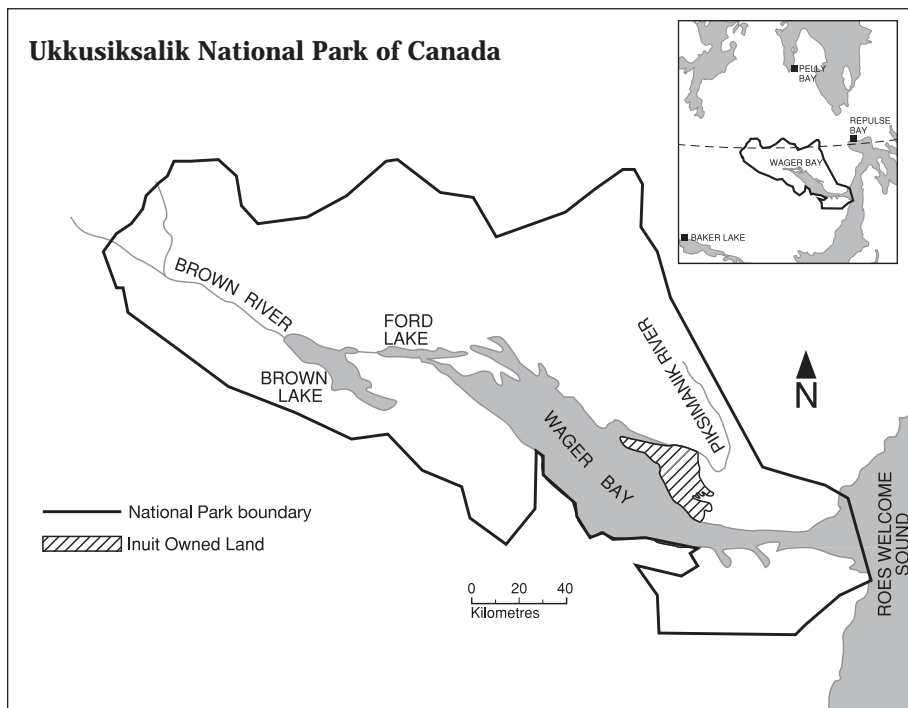
The current interim land withdrawal for this area expires in October 2004. Before that date Parks Canada will consult with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) and Inuit of Resolute Bay to see if there is support for extending the withdrawal and to discuss potential boundaries. If there is support, the withdrawal would be extended to allow for the gathering of any additional information that the community and QIA may need before deciding to enter into negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement pursuant to the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

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 11 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). Requirements of the *NLCA* include negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for most conservation areas, and the production of management plans for all conservation areas. In 2001, CWS and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. began negotiating on an Umbrella IIBA covering conservation areas in Nunavut, with site-specific appendices dealing with issues relevant to certain sanctuaries or wildlife areas. These negotiations are still underway in early 2004.

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



Ukkusiksalik signing ceremony. Left to right: Ovide Alakannuark (Member of the Legislative Assembly, Akulik), the Honourable Paul Okalik (Premier of Nunavut), Cathy Towtongie (President, NTI), Olayuk Akesuk (Minister of Sustainable Development), The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister of Canada), Nancy Karetak-Lindell (Member of Parliament-Nunavut), David Tukurdjuk (Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA)), Tongola Sandy (President, KIA), Donat Milortok (Vice President, KIA) and Alan Latourelle (CEO, Parks Canada), (© Parks Canada Agency, 2003)

Key Marine Sites for Migratory Birds

In Nunavut and the NWT approximately 40 species of birds, representing more than 15 million individuals, rely on marine habitats for breeding, feeding, migration staging or wintering. In 2002, the Canadian Wildlife Service drafted a document identifying 34 key marine habitat sites for migratory birds in Nunavut and the NWT (i.e. those sites that support more than one percent of the Canadian population of a species at some point through their annual cycle). Peer review is complete and publication is expected in 2004. This information has been presented to, and shared internationally with, the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network of the Arctic Council - Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna.

Conservation Areas as Research Sites

Aside from protecting valuable Canadian wildlife resources, several of the sanctuaries and wildlife areas in Nunavut serve as key research locations for migratory birds. Between 2000 and 2004 ongoing surveys and focal research projects have taken place in the Queen Maud

Gulf, East Bay, Prince Leopold Island, Dewey Soper, Bylot Island, McConnell River and Seymour Island Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Igaliqtuuq National Wildlife Area

Work toward the establishment of Igaliqtuuq National Wildlife Area (NWA) continues. This site is included in the current Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) negotiations and, upon conclusion of the IIBA, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) will execute the formal designation process for the NWA. CWS will work with Clyde River to begin habitat mapping and biological inventory work at Isabella Bay. CWS continues to support the Igaliqtuuq Steering Committee monitoring efforts of Bowhead Whales through the Habitat Stewardship Program.

Qaquluit (Cape Searle) and Akpait (Reid Bay)

Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) studies in the 1970s identified important seabird colonies at Cape Searle (Qaquluit) and Reid Bay (Akpait), two sites approximately 100 km southeast of Qikiqtarjuaq. Through the 1980s and 1990s there was little interest in the community

for attaining protection for these sites. However, in 1999, the Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq received support from the Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO), Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), and the Qikiqtarjuaq Community Land Development Committee to reopen the discussions regarding protection of these sites as national wildlife areas (NWA).

The community voted to proceed with the work required to create a new NWA in 2000. CWS, in collaboration with the Nattivak HTO, the Hamlet, and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), has now made four site visits to Cape Searle to gather baseline ecological data. A community knowledge study, led by the HTO and sponsored by WWF, has also been conducted. In June 2001 and 2002 a census and mapping project was conducted at Cape Searle, the first time ever that this site has been mapped in detail. A NWA Boundaries Committee was appointed in 2001 and their recommended boundaries are currently under review by the QIA as part of the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement process.



Ivory Gull calling in flight (© Mark Mallory, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2003)

On the Lookout for Ivory Gulls

The Ivory Gull, a small, pure white gull with black legs, is in serious decline in Nunavut. This species was common at the Seymour Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary and was frequently observed near the floe edge off of Bylot Island (near Pond Inlet) and near Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord. If you observe an Ivory Gull, please report the observation, date and approximate location to the Canadian Wildlife Service in Iqaluit (see "For More Information" for contact numbers).

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



Mirnguiqsirviit - Nunavut Parks

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

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

An Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Territorial Parks

The 1993 *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)* changed the role of government in the protection of the environment for Nunavut. This *Agreement* recognizes the value and desirability of parks and conservation areas, and further defines an approach to the establishment of protected areas within Nunavut - including meaningful community involvement, management, and impact and benefit measures related to protected areas.

As part of the obligations of the *NLCA*, Nunavut Parks, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI), and the Kivalliq, Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani Inuit

Associations successfully negotiated and signed an Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) in May 2002. The IIBA recognizes the role of territorial parks in Nunavut. The IIBA will assist in the development of Inuit tourism opportunities and benefits associated with parks by providing training and economic opportunities, and establishing a process toward the joint management and planning of the lands and resources in existing and future territorial parks.

Nunavut Parks, along with NTI and the three regional Inuit associations, will focus on implementing the IIBA over the next several years. The parties have: entered into negotiations with the federal government for funding to implement the IIBA's 17 Articles; established a working group to oversee the implementation; developed a new government policy on procedures for contracting and business opportunities in territorial parks; and established a Parks Contract Working Group to monitor contracting and ensure Inuit firms and businesses receive preferential treatment as per the *NLCA*.

The IIBA also provides for local and territorial involvement in the development and management of territorial parks. The establishment of co-management structures will be instrumental in helping develop a new Nunavut Parks Program. It will review the relationships between existing national and territorial parks, and ensure continued opportunities for effective, long-term contributions

to the goals of Nunavut through tourism, recreation, habitat protection, economic growth and sustainable development. Changes to parks legislation and policy will guide future development of parks and conservation areas in Nunavut.

Visual Identity

The development of the Nunavut Parks Program includes a visual identity program. This program will present a consistent and professional presence throughout Nunavut and distinguish and enhance public awareness of Nunavut parks in a clear and prominent way. The visual identity program has included the development of the Mirnguiqsirviit name and logo, the re-launched website, and the development of design standards for park facilities and signs.

All new signs display the Mirnguiqsirviit and Government of Nunavut logos, and include the four official languages of Nunavut - Inuktitut, Innuinaqtun, English and French. Replacement interpretive signs have been installed using the new standards.

2003 also saw the implementation of the new Parks Facilities Design Standards. In Pangnirtung, the relocation of campground facilities at Pisuktinu Tunngavik Territorial Park was an opportunity to implement these designs, resulting in structures with a distinctly northern vernacular. Future projects will continue to bring the facility design standards to all parks across Nunavut, enhancing

www.nunavutparks.com

Re-launched in 2002, this website features expanded information on all the territorial parks and visitor centers in Nunavut. It also features information on safe and sustainable travel in Nunavut, the Territorial Parks Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA), visitor registration information, and the firearm permitting process for territorial parks. A bulletin board encourages the exchange of information, trip reports and park experiences. In addition, information and updates on the development of the Parks Program, the IIBA, upcoming events and activities, and reports on initiatives in the parks will be posted here.

services to park users and setting the parks visual identity program.

Standards for a Nunavut Park Poster and individual park information pieces, from simple brochures to guidebooks, were developed in 2003. These standards will be used in the printing of posters and brochures in 2004.

Attraction Development

Nunavut Parks began feasibility studies in 2001 to consider opportunities for the development of parks and other attractions in some of Nunavut's communities. Building on existing Community and Regional Economic Development Plans and pre-feasibility studies, the projects have identified existing or potential tourism attractions, support (training, product development, etc.) and facilities required, as well as the potential benefits to the communities.

Campgrounds

Nunavut Parks began the process of re-developing three existing campgrounds and the establishment and development of two new campgrounds in 2002. Campgrounds are important elements in the Nunavut Parks Program, providing service to park visitors and local communities. Community involvement in the planning and development stage includes the selection of campground sites, type and number of facilities, and the identification of the campground name.

A new location for the Qilaluqat Territorial Park campground in Pond Inlet will be identified and redeveloped in 2004. Inuujaarvik Territorial Park in Baker Lake will have improved facilities installed, and construction will begin on new campgrounds in Kimmirut and Resolute Bay. Nunavut Parks has worked with both communities to select names for the new campgrounds. In Kimmirut the campground will be named *Taqaiqsirvik* ("resting area") and the Resolute Bay campground will be



Sam Ford Fiord (© Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut, 2002)

called *Tupirvik* ("a place to place a tent").

Clyde River

A feasibility study was carried out in 2002 and 2003 along the north shore of Isabella Bay, northward to Scott Inlet. From this, a smaller, more manageable area is being recommended for further stages of study. This area includes deep glacial

fiords, ancient glaciers and dramatic rock spires and pinnacles. Sam Ford Fiord, within this area, is known as a "world class" climbing site. In addition to a unique mountain climbers market, the proposed three-season "Wilderness Park Zone" will appeal to a diverse adventurer market. The second phase of the feasibility study will begin in winter 2004.



Coral Harbour Attraction (ring of walrus skulls) (© Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut, 2003)

Coral Harbour

Alijivik (Ruin Point), located approximately 60 km southwest of Coral Harbour along the shores of South Bay, is an archaeological site once occupied by the unique Sadlermiut. A feasibility study examined locations throughout Southampton Island and identified this heritage site as the preferred option for further study. The study deals with the conceptual development of the proposed attraction, interpretation and modes of travel, target tourism marketing development, land claim implications and the development of a bibliographic resource file associated with the site. The study is expected to be completed in the spring of 2004.

Hall Beach

A 2003 feasibility study recommends an attraction development focus on the cultural and technological history of Hall Beach and the interaction between historical Inuit technology and the coming of the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line System to the

north. Hall Beach is the site of FOX Main Station which is distinguished by the numbers and conditions of its original buildings and antennae in place.

Working with territorial and federal partners, Nunavut Parks is planning to interpret the development of the site and the modern community of Hall Beach. Located around the DEW Line are many outstanding Thule sites which will be interpreted to highlight the technology of the people who inhabited this area before the community's development.

Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park

(formerly Ijirliliq Territorial Park)

Just inland from the west coast of Hudson Bay, about 10 km northwest of the community of Rankin Inlet, lies Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga ("the land around the river of little fishes") Territorial Park. In summer and fall, visitors and residents enjoy the river's spectacular scenery, in addition to fishing, swimming, berry

picking and viewing the park's abundant wildlife, including the endangered peregrine falcon. The park's most outstanding feature is the historic site Qamaviniqtaalik ("place of ancient sod houses") and its interpretive walking trail located on the flood plains of the Meliadine River. The numerous archaeological features at Qamaviniqtaalik are representative of the transition from the Thule culture to historic Caribou Inuit culture.

Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga has become the centre for increased cruise ship activity in the Kivalliq Region. The site showcases the strong cultural and natural heritage of the region, and has become a centre for local arts and crafts. Picnic areas have been developed and future plans include the installation of interpretive signs, the production of a park brochure and guidebook, and the further development of hiking/interpretive trails.

Katannilik Territorial Park

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

Approximately 350 visitors entered the park during July and August 2003. The community, with assistance from park staff, organized cultural events for the visitors. Summer visitor use alone has resulted in increasing economic impacts in Kimmirut for arts and crafts, home-stay programs, and community activities and events. The Soper House, the home of the 1930s explorer and biologist Dewey Soper, now serves as the Soper House Gallery where soapstone carvings and handicrafts are for sale through the Quliruaqut Society.

With funding support from the Kakivak Association, summer science



Katannilik Territorial Park (© Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut)



Kuklok Territorial Park (© Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut)

camps for students were held in August 2003. Here they learned about wildlife and plant ecology, traditional use of rocks and minerals, and navigation using rocks.

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

A pilot visitor registration package was developed in 2002 for Katannilik

which informed visitors of park conditions, provided safe and sustainable travel information, and developed a database of visitors to the park. The registration package will be refined over the next couple of years. Katannilik Park will be supported by the development of a campground within the community of Kimmirut during the summer of 2004.

Kekerten Territorial Park

Kekerten Park, located 50 km from Pangnirtung within Cumberland Sound, was a highly used Scottish

whaling station during the 1850s and 1860s. Knowledge of the whales, the area, and survival in the Arctic made Inuit essential allies in the commercial whaling industry. A number of artifacts remain as part of the whaling station, including the 1857 foundations of three storehouses, large cast-iron pots, and restored tent frames and rings.

In 2003, the Government of Nunavut and the community of Pangnirtung worked on the second phase of a restoration project meant to increase economic development opportunities in Pangnirtung, while enhancing the awareness of the unique whaling history. The development of the Scottish Whaling Station at Kekerten will support local outfitters providing tours to the park by increasing the interpretive potential of the site to include the relationship of Inuit with the whalers. The project is at the final architectural design stage. Proposed elements on the site include a three-dimensional skeletal structure ghosting the Scottish whaling station, removable fabric interpretive panels, and several interactive interpretive stations throughout the site.

Kuklok Territorial Park

Kuklok Park, located 15 km southwest of the community of Kugluktuk, is a landscape of rolling tundra, escarpments and rocky outcrops, and steep cliffs at the falls and along the river which provide great opportunities for wildlife watching, fishing, hiking and camping. Bloody Falls, declared a national historic site in 1978, is found within Kuklok Park and is the site of, perhaps, the most famous battle in the north. The site contains remnants of Thule winter houses used more than 500 years ago, archaeological evidence of caribou hunting camps of more than 1,500 years ago, Pre-Dorset use of the site more than 3,500 years ago, and a rich history of Arctic exploration which only begin to demonstrate the historic significance of the site.

The Coppermine River, which

flows through the park, was nominated as a national heritage river in August 2002 (also see article on page 24). The park has become a well-used one-day boat trip from Kugluktuk and nearly all canoeing and rafting parties descending the Coppermine River choose to camp at Kuklok. A study was initiated in 2002 to design a portage trail within Kuklok Park to assist visitors. Local use of the area by community residents for camping and fishing is increasing, and reflects the traditional use of the site. The portage trail, park signs and some facilities will be installed in 2004.

Northwest Passage Park - Gjoa Haven

Northwest Passage Park is not a park in the conventional sense. It is an effort to link stories from several communities and sites into one broad theme - the Northwest Passage - both the search by Europeans for a Northwest Passage and the subsequent search by several expeditions for answers to the disappearance of the Franklin expedition.

In Gjoa Haven, the Northwest Passage Historic Park is a component part of this development. The signs along the walking trail through the town, and the display at the Hamlet complex, concentrate on Amundsen's exploration and time in the community.

This past year marked the 100th anniversary of the first crossing of the Northwest Passage by Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen. To commemorate this anniversary, a group of Norwegians attempted to retrace the same route as Amundsen and his crew onboard their 44-foot boat, but ice conditions prevented them from reaching Gjoa Haven. Residents continued with their celebrations, including the unveiling of a cairn in Amundsen's memory by Norway's ambassador to Canada.

Ovayok Territorial Park

Ovayok, or Mount Pelly, is the name used to describe the large esker that dominates the landscape within this territorial park located approximately 15 km east of the community of Cambridge Bay. The park is becoming increasingly popular for tourism because of its interesting mountain, raised beaches and surrounding lake landscape. The area is renowned for its diversity and numbers of Arctic birds. Many bird watchers from around the world are attracted by opportunities to add to their life lists.

Ovayok Territorial Park is easily accessible by a vehicle and it is an important day-use destination for visitors. A study was initiated in 2002 to design an interpretive trail for the park. The plan will explore the natural beauty and historical significance of the park, and will be designed to reflect the sensitive landscape and the interests of the wildlife and bird habitat. The project will support local outfitters providing tours to the park by increasing the interpretive potential of the site.

Sylvia Grinnell/Qaummaarviit Territorial Park

Located one km from the heart of Iqaluit, Sylvia Grinnell Park provides an opportunity for the many visitors and residents to readily experience the Arctic landscape. The park provides the visitor a chance to see the Baffin Island flora, including several rare plants such as the woodsia fern; fauna, primarily

caribou and arctic fox; and its cultural heritage, including traditional fishing sites at the rapids, stone cairns and Thule ruins.

Nunavut Parks has been working with the Department of National Defense, the Trans Canada Trail Foundation and the Rotary Club of Iqaluit to design and construct a pedestrian bridge over the Sylvia Grinnell River. Bridge foundations were installed in November 2002 and completion of the bridge construction is projected for summer 2004. New infrastructure in the park includes a new entrance sign and picnic area. Orientation signs for the park will be installed in 2004.

Qaummaarviit Park, a Thule site, has more than 750 years of Inuit occupation. Summer tents, kayak stands, meat caches and more can be viewed, including the remains of 11 winter houses which made use of raised living surfaces and deep entry to trap cold air - techniques rarely seen elsewhere. Replacement of weathered interpretation signs was completed in the summer of 2003. The interpretive walking trail offers a glimpse at the remarkable features left by past inhabitants of this beautiful island.

Inuit Heritage Trust

The Inuit Heritage Trust (IHT) is dedicated to the preservation, enrichment and protection of Inuit cultural heritage and identity, and deals with issues of archaeology, ethnographic objects and archives.

Torngat Mountains

Representative of Canada's Natural Region 24, the Northern Labrador Mountains, the Torngat Mountain area is an outstanding Arctic landscape. Fiords run inland up to 80 kilometres, cliffs rise to 900 metres above sea level, mountain peaks top 1500 metres, wildlife is abundant and archaeological sites are numerous.

Parks Canada is continuing discussions with Inuit groups in Labrador and Nunavik (northern Quebec) toward the establishment of a national park reserve in this area. An agreement with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is being negotiated which will transfer the proposed national park reserve lands to Canada.



Inuit Place Names Project (© Inuit Heritage Trust, 2003)

IHT activities are based on the principle of respect for traditional knowledge and the wisdom of Elders.

IHT was established in 1994 and receives its mandate from Articles 33 and 34 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)*. Core funding is received from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the umbrella organization set up to implement the *NLCA*.

Elders' Recognition Award

The Elders' Recognition Award is given to Nunavut Elders for their contributions to younger generations. These contributions are vital to maintaining Inuit heritage.

This Award acknowledges the efforts of many Elders who work within the schools teaching their skills and sharing their knowledge of Inuit culture, heritage and archaeology. The Inuit Heritage Trust, with the assistance of regional Inuit organizations and community members, hold Elder nominations every other year in the three Nunavut regions - Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Qikiqtani.

Place Names Program

One of the Inuit Heritage Trust's (IHT) mandates under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* is to review traditional place names in order that these names may become official. When placed on maps, Inuktitut place names offer a tangible record of land use and occupancy over time. They offer a footprint, a graphic illustration, of where people lived, travelled, hunted, starved, celebrated, waited, and died on the land. This record, existing in great detail only in the minds of a few Inuit Elders, is important for future generations so that they may appreciate the extent and quality of Inuit activities on the land over time.

IHT has two major goals regarding place names research in the communities:

- support the production of maps with traditional names so that all may benefit from the Elders' place names knowledge; and
- engage the communities in a comprehensive program that will result in traditional place names being made official.

Travelling Museum

The Travelling Museum Project was produced in collaboration with the Canadian Museum of Civilization and is a reproduction of artifacts, photographs and text, specifically designed to travel throughout Nunavut and other northern communities. This exhibit, in Inuktitut, Innuinaqtun and English, tells the story of the Thule culture as it progressed from Siberia to Alaska and then to Nunavut. By promoting Inuit heritage in this manner, the Inuit Heritage Trust anticipates that exposure to this exhibit will stimulate interests in Inuit history and the field of archaeology.



Travelling Museum
(© Inuit Heritage Trust, 2003)

Inuvialuit Settlement Region

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

Ivvavik National Park of Canada Qainnuirvik (Clarence Lagoon) Salvage Archaeology Excavation

Coastal erosion along the Yukon North Slope presents a constant threat to a number of cultural resources found within Ivvavik National Park of Canada. Sites once inhabited by Inuvialuit and their ancestors have been affected to different degrees by shoreline erosion and the advancing driftline. Parks Canada has been conducting an archaeology site monitoring program over the past 15 years to track the coastal erosion in Ivvavik. The 2002 monitoring program showed that some traditional Inuvialuit sod and wood houses, located at the southern edge of Qainnuirvik (Clarence Lagoon) near the border with Alaska, were at risk.

After consultations with the community of Aklavik, salvage excavations of the sites at Qainnuirvik were conducted in August 2003. Two Inuvialuit sod and wood houses were excavated by Parks Canada staff with the assistance of Inuvialuit youth from the communities of Aklavik and Inuvik. Inuvialuit Elders, who had once lived in the area, were flown out to the site during the excavation. This presented the opportunity to gather oral histories about life along the North Slope coast at the turn of the century.

Analyses of site maps, architectural layout sketches, artefacts, animal remains, and Elder interviews are currently underway. Information and materials gathered at Qainnuirvik will form the basis of new archaeology products which will be developed by Parks Canada and Aklavik over the next few years.



Clarence Lagoon excavation 76Y2 (complete) (© Natasha Lyons, University of Calgary, 2003)

Artists in the Park Project

The inaugural “Artists in the Park” project took place in Ivvavik National Park of Canada in the summer of 2003, with the aim to build a broader awareness of northern national parks. Based on the Gros Morne National Park program, Parks Canada brought five artists, from different cultures, together at Sheep Creek during the first two weeks of July. Using sculpture, film, paint, sketches and photography, the artists captured the beauty of Ivvavik. This opportunity allowed Inuvialuit artists to work with, learn from, and exchange skills with artists from other parts of Canada and the United Kingdom.

Artists interested in the program can contact Parks Canada at
inuvik.info@pc.gc.ca.



Ron's carvings (© Alice Angus, 2003)



A. Wolf painting (© James McCormick, Parks Canada, 2003)

Gwich'in Settlement Area



**GWICH'IN SOCIAL and
CULTURAL INSTITUTE**

Blackstone Uplands Oral History Project

In 2003, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) worked with Teet'it Gwich'in, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation and the Yukon Heritage Branch to document graves and archaeological and traditionally used sites in the upper Blackstone River area (also see article on page 27). The research was carried out by road and helicopter over a ten day period. Areas of interest included Black City, Calico Town and Ts'ok giitl'in. The information recorded will ensure that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Teet'it Gwich'in use, knowledge and stories of the area are included in the interpretation of the area. This project was a continuation of research conducted in 1999 and 2002.

Fort McPherson

Ethnoarchaeology Booklet

A small booklet, based on the excavations and oral history work carried out at the Hudson's Bay Company site in Fort McPherson since 1999, is currently being drafted. The booklet will include a short Teet'it Gwich'in history and their involvement with the trading post, stories from Elders, photos and the results of the archaeological excavations. This booklet will be used in the schools to introduce students to archaeology and their oral history.

Gwich'in and Inuvialuit Second Language Curriculum

The Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre, in partnership with the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI), is writing a second language curriculum and organizing a lesson

plan. To date, various aspects of the curriculum, including the rationale and implementation of the language program via scope and sequence of units, lesson formats, teaching approaches and evaluation, have been drafted. GSCI will include materials already developed by its Language Centre and create new material to fill in any gaps.

Nagwichoonjik National Historic Site of Canada

On July 11, 2003, the Nagwichoonjik National Historic Site of Canada

plaque was officially unveiled in a ceremony in Tsiigehtchic after many months of preparation. The trilingual plaque, in Gwich'in, English and French, outlines the rationale for the designation. The Nagwichoonjik Steering Committee, Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and Parks Canada will now finalize the Commemorative Integrity Statement so that work can begin on the Management Plan and Cost-Share Agreement related to managing the site.

NAGWICHOONJIK

Nagwichoonjik gwinyuu zrit Vihtr'ih Njik gwats'at Sreetàdhàdlâi gwits'at zrit aii Gwichyàh Gwich'in kat yi'eenoo dàì' gwats'at gweenjit gwiya'an gwiijinchii zhan nilii. Dinjii kat oonoo dàì' nihts'at agogwaandak ts'at oozrii gwats'an tr'agwàatsâi k'iighe' gogwank'yûu ts'at jidi gogwinahyin eenjit gweenjit gwiijinchii dagoonch'ou. Gwichyàh Gwich'in kat aii Nagwichoonjik zrit gweenjit gwiijinchii zhan nilii. Anihàik gwà'àn zrit àuk kàtr'idi'in ts'at nijin kwànk'it g'io'âi k'iighe' tth'aih gogwiteendai ànts'at khaii gwitak gogwinyàanch'uu tanatr'igiteech'yaa.

Nagwichoonjik, that part of the Mackenzie River from Thunder River to Point Separation, holds a pre-eminent position within the Gwichyàh Gwich'in cultural landscape. The oral histories of the people and the names they gave to the geographic features of this transportation corridor reflect their spiritual and physical relationships with the river. Nagwichoonjik is the heart of the homeland of the Gwichyàh Gwich'in. Its rich resources, including numerous fisheries and stone quarries, ensured not only the survival but the flourishing of the people through the centuries.

Depuis la rivière Thunder à la pointe Separation, le paysage culturel des Gwichyàh Gwich'in est dominé par Nagwichoonjik, nom de cette partie du fleuve Mackenzie. La tradition orale et les toponymes de cette voie de communication renvoient aux rapports physiques et spirituels que le peuple entretient avec le fleuve. Nagwichoonjik, le cœur du pays Gwichyàh Gwich'in, abrite d'importantes richesses, dont de nombreuses pêcheries et des carrières de pierres. C'est grâce à ces ressources qu'à travers les siècles, ce peuple a pu survivre et connaître son épanouissement.

Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada
Commission des lieux et monuments historiques du Canada
Government of Canada - Gouvernement du Canada

Teetł'it Gwich'in Proposed National Historic Site

The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute continued to work with the community of Fort McPherson and Parks Canada to identify a possible national historic site within the Teetł'it Gwich'in traditional land use area. The Community Steering Committee, including Elders and members of the Teetł'it Gwich'in Council, consulted with the community of Fort McPherson and nominated two stretches of the Peel River. An application, submitted to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC), outlining the reasons for nomination, was followed up by a presentation to the HSMBC board members attending the unveiling of the Nagwichoonjik plaque. Having met the guidelines for nominating sites of national historic significance, a submission report is being finalized for consideration by the HSMBC in 2004.

19th Century Gwich'in Traditional Caribou Skin Clothing Project

After almost two and a half years of work, five replicated 19th century men's Gwich'in caribou skin outfits were unveiled in March 2003 at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC). Of the 41 seamstresses involved in the project, 15 were in attendance at the ceremony. One replica is now on display at the PWNHC. The four remaining replicas were officially presented to Aklavik, Inuvik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic in early 2004. A 33 minute video that records the unveiling ceremony as been produced and is available to those who have an interest in traditional Gwich'in clothing.

19th Century Gwich'in Traditional Caribou Skin Clothing Project (Charles (Chas) Saddington modelling Inuvik replica)
(© Gadi Katz, Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, 2002)



Deh Cho

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency National Parks

Nahanni National Park Reserve

The Government of Canada's *Action Plan to Protect Canada's Natural Heritage* includes the goal of expanding Nahanni National Park Reserve to enhance protection of its ecological integrity and better represent the Mackenzie Mountains Natural Region in the National Parks System.

Several important achievements were realized over the past year:

1. Parks Canada and the Deh Cho First Nations (DCFN) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work co-operatively to expand the park reserve, and

established the Nahanni Expansion Working Group.

2. Lands were set aside through an interim land withdrawal order under the Deh Cho Process which include some lands within the park expansion area of interest.
3. Parks Canada and DCFN signed the Interim Park Management Arrangement regarding the management of the present park reserve.
4. The Mineral and Energy Resources Assessment phase I report was completed.

The *Memorandum of Understanding between the Parks Canada Agency and Deh Cho First Nations respecting the expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada* was signed

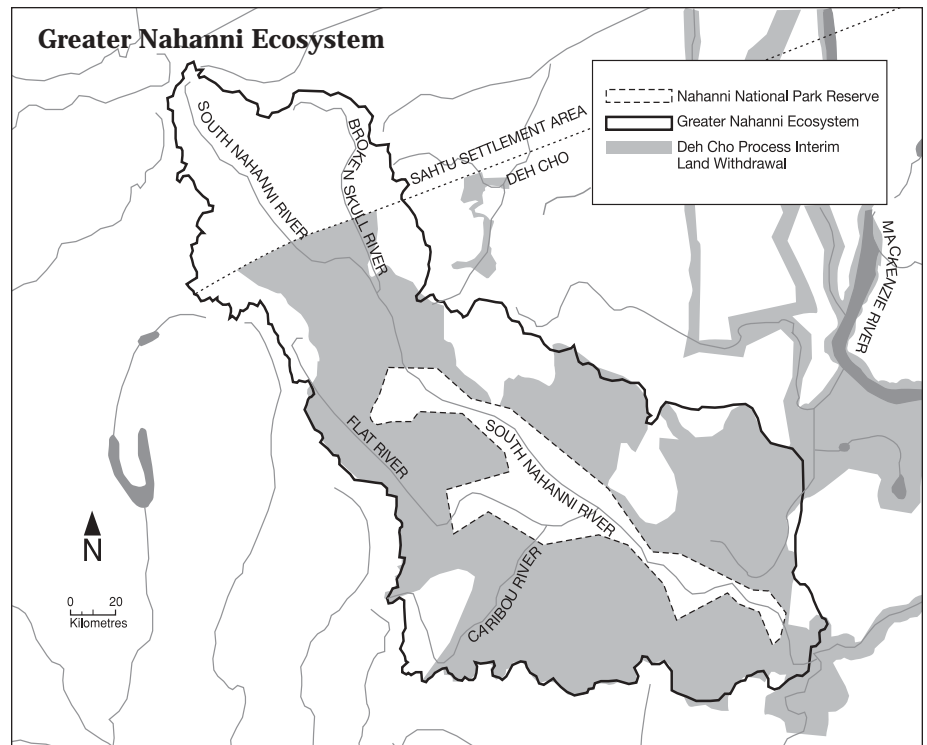
in the summer of 2003. In this MOU the parties agree to work co-operatively toward completing a feasibility study within three years, to consider amending the *Canada National Parks Act* to expand Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada, and to develop guidelines for land use and development in the balance of the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem through a Deh Cho land use plan. Parks Canada and DCFN have formed a working group to guide the feasibility study and to implement the MOU.

Parks Canada is also working to incorporate lands in the Sahtu Region - the headwaters of the South Nahanni River - into the park reserve, in accordance with the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* and the Sahtu

Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan. The Plan identifies the South Nahanni River headwaters area as having the following Conservation Area Objective: "Allow for expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve".

Feasibility studies, including an assessment of the proposed park expansion area's mineral and energy resource potential, are underway. Some of the challenges will include addressing the concerns of the mining, oil and natural gas industries, and of guided commercial hunting outfitters, as well as determining the new boundaries of the park.

The area of interest for the completion of Nahanni National Park Reserve includes the "Greater Park Ecosystem" as defined in the park management plan – this is the entire watershed of the South Nahanni River and the area of karst lands to the south east.



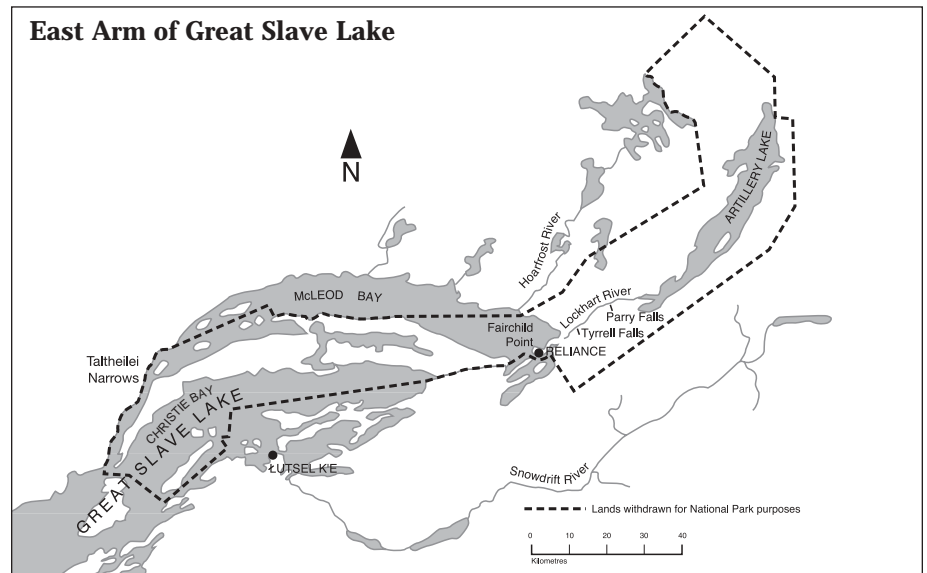
Dene and Métis Claims Areas (South Slave)

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency National Parks

East Arm of Great Slave Lake

Parks Canada continues to consult and exchange information with Aboriginal groups whose traditional territories include the area withdrawn for the proposed national park in the vicinity of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake.

The Chief of the Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN) invited the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Parks Canada to attend the annual spiritual gathering at Desnedhé Che (the mouth of the Lockhart River) in early August 2003. There were earnest discussions on the possible establishment of a national park and how this might be achieved to best benefit the Band while providing that traditional harvesting activities and use of the area continue. This also provided the CEO the opportunity to visit people at the gathering and the



more personal experience of travelling to the site by boat with several Dene families and learning about the area first hand from them.

The LKDFN has undertaken to reach a decision by the end of September 2004 about whether to proceed with negotiations to establish a national park reserve in

the East Arm of Great Slave Lake. A national park can only be established after the settlement of the Akaitcho Treaty 8 Process and resolution of assertions of interest to the area by other Aboriginal people. A national park reserve can be established under the *Canada National Parks Act* in the interim.

Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut

■ Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites

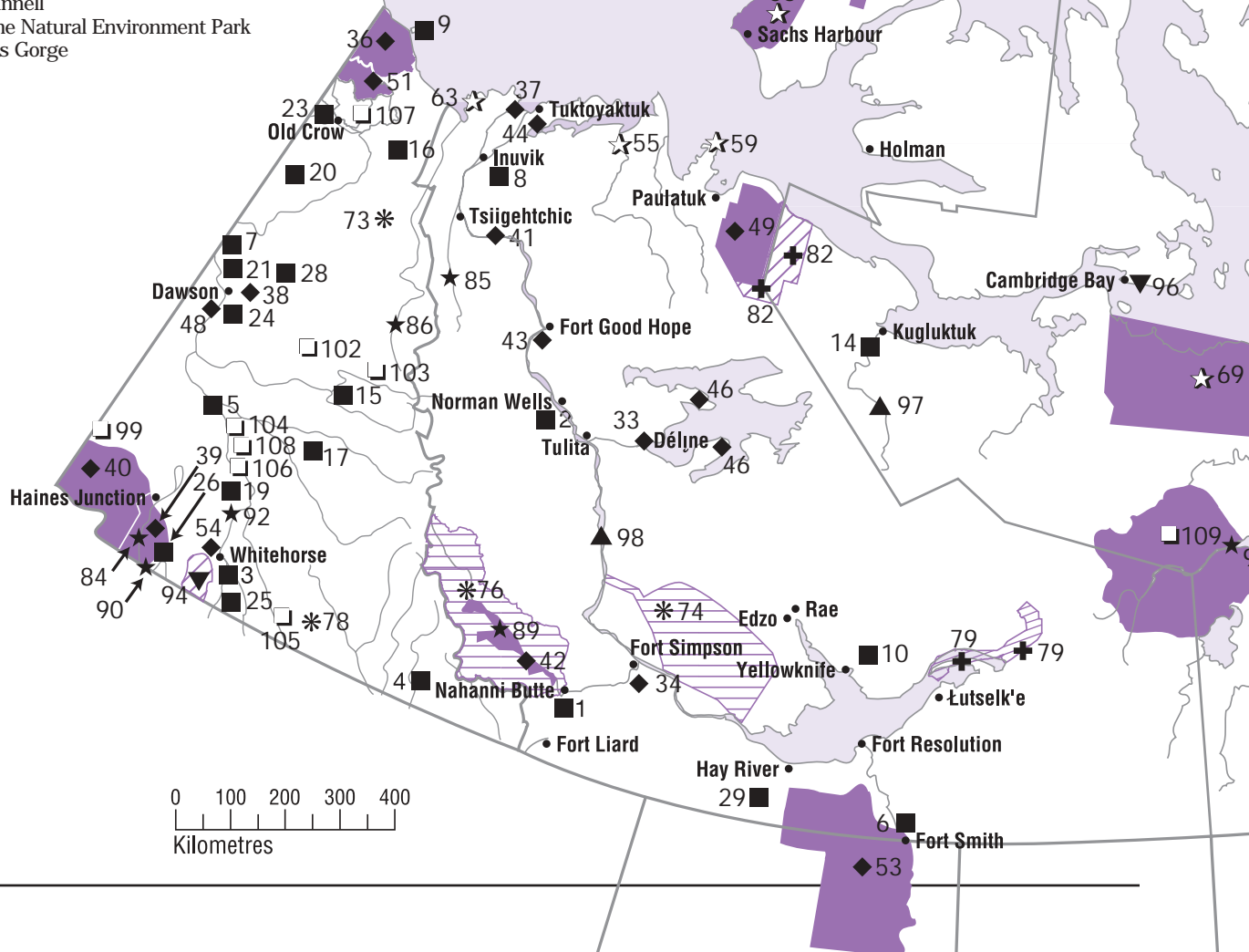
1. Blackstone
2. Canol Trail/Dodo Canyon
3. Canyon City
4. Coal River Springs
5. Fort Selkirk
6. Fort Smith Mission
7. Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine
8. Gwich'in
9. Herschel Island
10. Hidden Lake
11. Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga
12. Katannilik
13. Kekerten
14. Kuklök
15. Lansing Post
16. LaPierre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

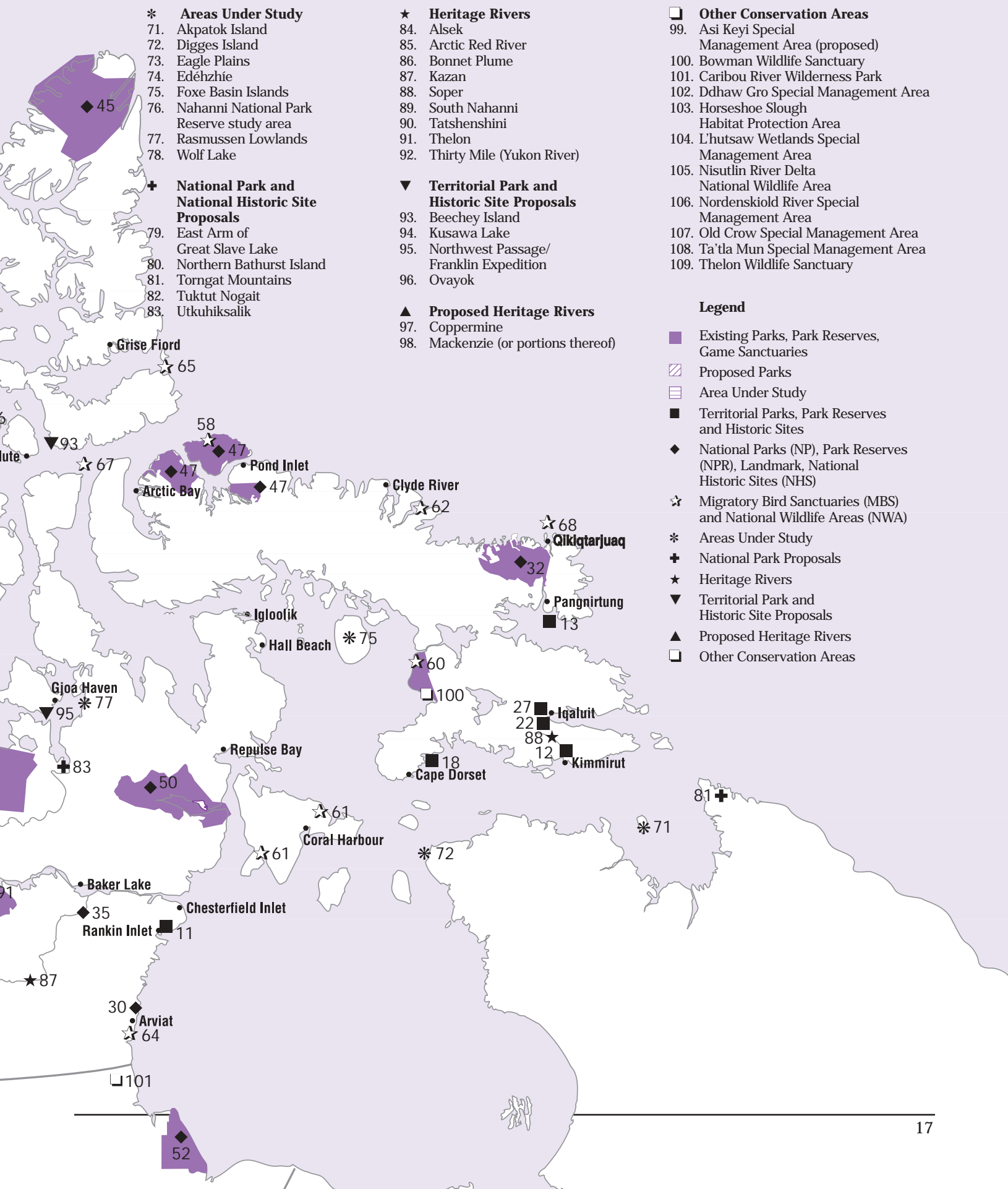
◆ National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)

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

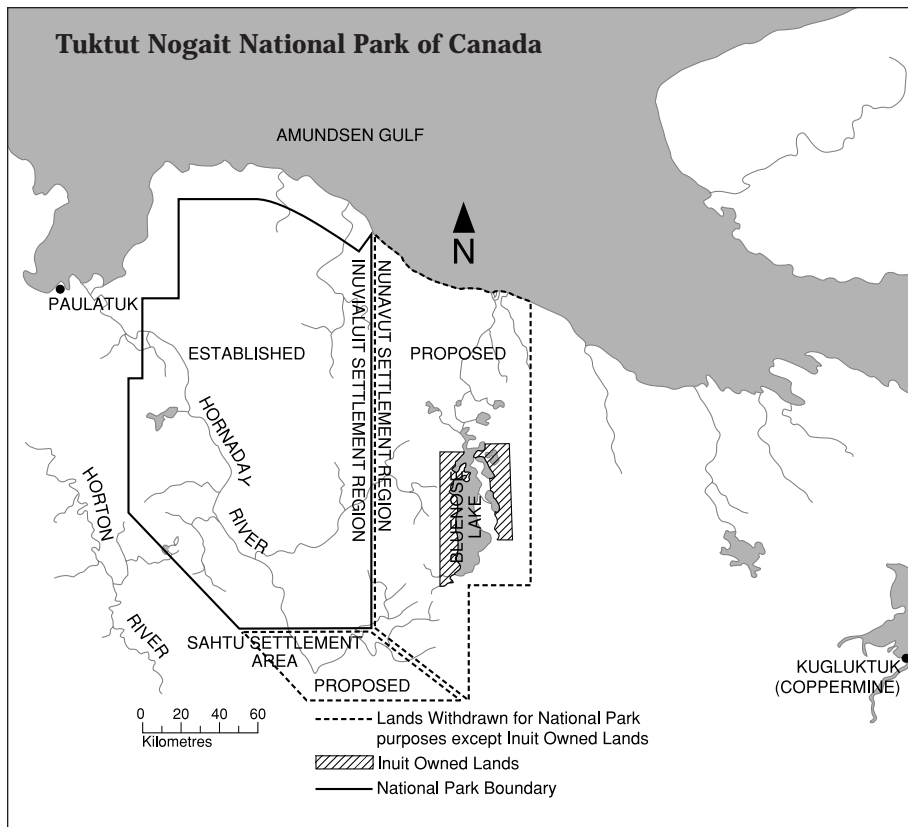
☆ Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)

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





Initiatives Spanning Two or More Claim Areas



Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency National Parks

Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada

Inuvialuit Settlement Region Youth Programs

Parks Canada conducted a trip into Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada for children between the ages of nine and 13 years. Through the eight days of camping and day-hikes, nine Paulatuuq students were exposed to the natural and cultural history of the park, and the best practices for ensuring its ecological integrity. This was a rewarding experience for both children and adults.

Parks Canada also conducted a ten day trip for eight Paulatuuq youth between the ages of 14 and 18. The

main objective of this trip was to ensure that students had a positive first experience hiking and backpacking in the park. Student feedback indicated that the trip was a success and all participants hope to have other hiking opportunities in the park.

Tuktut Nogait staff, once again, offered a student mentoring program. A grade 9 Paulatuuq student and a high school graduate from Déline participated in the program. Through job shadowing these participants were able to learn about careers with Parks Canada. The program will be offered again in 2004.

Sea Kayaking

Paulatuuq residents were re-introduced to the sport of kayaking this past summer. A sea kayaking Level I course was offered to four youth. Three participants completed

Level I certification and one completed the Flatwater Level. The course may be expanded in 2004 to include youth from other communities in the region.

Tourism/Guiding Awareness and Orientation

Parks Canada offered a three day tourism/guide awareness and orientation program to six adults from the community of Paulatuuq. The course was jointly facilitated by the territorial department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and Parks Canada. Course material included : funding opportunities, business plan writing and business ownership.

Sahtu Settlement Area

Parks Canada and the Déline Land Corporation (on behalf of the Sahtu Secretariat Inc.) tentatively reached agreement on an Impact and Benefit Plan to provide for the addition of 1,850 km² of land to the national park. The plan was concluded in accordance with the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* and is undergoing legal review before signature. Once signed, the lands will be added to the national park through a federal Order in Council. A Sahtu Dene and Métis appointee will join the Park Management Board that already includes appointees of the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC), and the Governments of Canada and the NWT. The Chair was appointed jointly by the federal government and the IRC.

Nunavut

With the support of the Kugluktuk Community Beneficiaries Committee and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada has extended the interim land withdrawal in the vicinity of Bluenose



Gathering of Métis women Elders (© Tessa Macintosh, December 2003)

Front row: Violet Mandeville, Ruby McLeod, Kathy Paul-Drover. Second row: Mary Heron, Lou Jewell, Caroline Douglas, Diane Payment (Parks Canada), Anne Firth-Jones. Third row: Ingrid Kritsch, Sister Délia Bourque, Laura Lennie, Sandra Dolan (facilitator). Fourth row: Sue Heron-Herbert (facilitator), Bobbi Bulmer, Laura Frank (Parks Canada) Missing from photo: Dorothy Beaulieu, Albertine Rodh

Lake until March 2008. This will allow time for the people of Kugluktuk and Parks Canada to gather any additional information needed to come to a final decision about whether to include approximately 10,000 km² of land to the national park.

If the decision is to proceed with the park, the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* requires that, before a national park can be established in Nunavut, the Government of Canada and Inuit conclude an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement.

National Marine Conservation Areas

Just as the National Parks Program divides Canada's land mass into 39 natural regions, the National Marine Conservation Areas Program divides Canada's ocean and Great Lakes waters into 29 marine regions. The ultimate goal of both programs is to set aside a representative example of each of these 68 distinct regions in

perpetuity. Nine of the 29 marine regions are in the Arctic. Though a national marine conservation area (NMCA) has yet to be established in the North, the planning work has been advancing.

- Preferred representative marine areas have been selected in the Hudson Bay (Churchill River/Nelson River) and Lancaster Sound regions.
- Representative marine areas have been identified in the Beaufort Sea, Baffin Island Shelf and James Bay regions, but preferred areas for NMCAs have not yet been selected.
- Four of the Arctic marine regions have not been examined: Arctic Basin, Arctic Archipelago, Queen Maud Gulf and Foxe Basin.

In 2002, the Government of Canada announced an action plan to establish 10 new national parks and five new national marine by 2008. Three NMCA establishment projects are underway, two located on the west

coast and one in the Great Lakes. The two remaining sites have yet to be confirmed.

National Historic Sites

Northern Métis Women's Project

Two important initiatives have arisen as a result of this on-going project which originated during the research conducted on Métis women for *Picking up the Threads: Métis History in the Mackenzie Basin*, 1998. Comparative research and consultation were carried out to address gaps and issues relating to the deferred Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) submission on Catherine Beaulieu Bouvier Lamoureux. A special workshop was organized for HSMBC members to address oral history methodology and provide related guidelines, with particular emphasis on the commemoration of Aboriginal people whose history is largely unwritten.

A gathering of 13 Métis women Elders from across the NWT was held in December 2003 for the “Strong Like Two People” workshop. Participants at this two day workshop reviewed all research findings and discussed such important issues as the diversity of Métis identity in the North, language and culture, current issues and aspirations for the future. The women shared stories and personal experiences and some brought their artwork and family photographs. One of the recommendations includes the formation of a Northern Métis Women’s Cultural Association or Resource Centre to focus on cultural initiatives, following the model of the Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute. The women would like to see the emergence of an association which is not focussed on politics but on the collection and publication of Métis history. The commemoration of Métis women for their specific contributions would also contribute to their empowerment and recognition in Northern society.

Future plans include the re-submission of the Catherine Bouvier paper at the fall 2004 HSMBC meeting and, funds permitting, an illustrated publication on northern Métis women based on oral and written materials collected for the project.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Proposed Marine Protected Area for Zone 1(a) of Beaufort Sea Beluga Management Plan

A major milestone was reached in 2003 in the planning and assessment of Zone 1(a) of the Beaufort Sea Beluga Management Plan as a potential marine protected area (MPA) under Canada’s *Oceans Act* (1997). Following extensive consultation and discussions, the Beaufort Sea Integrated Management Planning Initiative (BSIMPI) Working Group received the support of the

Hunters and Trappers and Elders Committees, and Community Development Corporations from Aklavik, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk to continue planning for the designation of Zone 1(a) as an MPA.

A priority for the BSIMPI Working Group during 2003 has been facilitating the exchange of information between Inuvialuit, the oil and gas industry, and government regulators with respect to each others interests in Zone 1(a) and the surrounding area. An Oil and Gas Technical Workshop, held in September 2003, provided a forum where Inuvialuit, government, industry and interested parties could present their perspectives on future hydrocarbon exploration, production and transportation, and the potential impacts on Zone 1(a). Information and comments from the workshop are currently the focus of a new round of consultations with community organizations. The outcome of these consultations will be used as the basis for developing regulations for the proposed MPA.

In October 2003, a workshop was held in Inuvik to assist in the development of conservation and marine environmental quality (MEQ) objectives. MEQ objectives are narrative statements or numerical values describing a desired condition for a given ecosystem, taking into account ecological characteristics. Associated with the MEQ objectives are the setting of targets and thresholds, and the development of monitoring indicators. In turn, MEQ objectives are used by the MPA managers to gauge whether the MPA is achieving its environmental goals and objectives. Monitoring MEQ objectives will continue following designation of the proposed MPA and will involve participation of a community-based monitoring program known as *tariuq* (“ocean”). *Tariuq* is a co-operative effort involving representatives from the Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committees, Gwich’in Renewable Resources Board, Elder

and Youth Committees, and the Tuktoyaktuk Community Corporation.

During the next few months, the BSIMPI Working Group will oversee the preparation of a management plan, impact analysis statement and regulations as part of the submission to have Zone 1(a) designated as an MPA. Community consultations and support are crucial during this phase and the subsequent management planning development. Choosing an appropriate name for the new MPA is also a priority.

Environment Canada Canadian Wildlife Service

Mills Lake and Edézhzié

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

Fort Providence has long been interested in protecting Mills Lake for both subsistence and cultural reasons. Several others in the Deh Cho and Tłı̨cho Regions are also interested in protecting the Horn Plateau. The Deh Cho and Tłı̨cho First Nations leadership and Fort Providence, Lı́ı́dlı̨ Kue (Fort Simpson), Jean Marie River, Pehdzéh Kí (Wrigley), Behchokò (Rae) and Wha Ti (Lac la Martre) have agreed to work on a combined initiative. A single protected area, Edézhzié, will be advanced through the process defined in the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (see also article on page 21). The features of this candidate protected area include:

- representative example of northern boreal forest (Horn Plateau Ecoregion) that supports

a population of Woodland caribou and Wood bison, both listed as “threatened” by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada;

- an important boreal wetland (Mills Lake) that is an important stopover for large numbers of birds during the spring and fall migration up and down the Mackenzie Valley; and
- the Horn Plateau as the source waters from a number of regionally important watersheds.

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

Ecological and mineral assessments were initiated for Edézhíe in 2002 and will continue on through 2004, including an ornithological inventory of Mills Lake and the lower Horn River areas. This information will provide, in part, the basis for proceeding with designation of the site as well as its management. An Edézhíe Working Group, consisting of community representatives, government and non-government partners, has been established to oversee this work.

NWT Protected Areas Strategy

Overview

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

The goals are to:

- protect special natural and cultural areas where development could be permitted

when compatible with the values being protected; and

- protect core representative areas within each ecoregion where resource-based development and associated infrastructure will not be permitted.

Since 1999, the PAS has been a partnership among the federal and territorial governments, regional Aboriginal groups, industry, non-government organizations and communities. There are eight steps in the PAS process:

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

Each of these eight steps requires the involvement and support of the concerned communities. The roles and responsibilities of the various partners can be found in detailed documents on the PAS website: <http://www.gov.nt.ca/RWED/pas/index.htm>.

Update

Several areas of interest, identified by communities and regional organizations, are currently advancing through the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) process. The communities of Fort Good Hope, Délne, Wrigley and Tulita, the Deh Cho First Nations and the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council have all identified areas of interest through the PAS. Gwich'in are once again full participants in implementing the PAS following the approval of the

Gwich'in Land Use Plan in 2003.

Two candidate protected areas, Sahyoue/Edacho and Edézhíe, are currently under a five-year interim land withdrawal. A land withdrawal prevents the registration of new third party interests, including the staking of mining claims. Sahyoue/Edacho National Historic Site is an important cultural landscape to the people of the Sahtu. Edézhíe is a rich fishing, hunting and trapping ground for Dogrib and the people of the Deh Cho (also see article on page 20).

Mackenzie Valley Five-Year Action Plan

The Mackenzie Valley Five-Year Action Plan is a new initiative of the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) developed in 2003 by the Implementation Advisory Committee at the request of the former Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The impetus for the Action Plan is the increasing pace and scale of development within the NWT, in particular along the Mackenzie Valley. The proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline, if approved, will be the largest energy development project in the NWT and one of the largest in Canadian history.

The Action Plan outlines the requirements for effective and timely conservation planning in the Mackenzie Valley ahead of, or concurrent with, pipeline development. It describes the strategic investments needed over the next five years to identify, review, establish interim protection and evaluate a network of protected areas in the Mackenzie Valley. It also identifies the resources required to meet the proposed Mackenzie Valley pipeline timeframe. By providing increased capacity to the communities within the Mackenzie Valley, the Action Plan will support the long-term conservation goals such as those identified in community conservation plans, land use plans, interim measures and land claims.

The key objectives of the Action Plan are to:

1. enhance the planning of protected areas in the Mackenzie Valley by mapping ecologically representative areas, complete the mapping of potential non-renewable resources, and achieve co-operative implementation of the NWT PAS at a regional level;
2. build capacity to ensure that community and regional organizations have the ability to participate, including the promotion of and support for candidate protected areas, and ensure that the PAS Secretariat is able to provide appropriate technical and administrative support and co-ordination;
3. ensure that all information requirements for advancing sites are met for the proper assessment of candidate protected areas; and
4. increase communications with communities, stakeholders, government, industry and the scientific community on the goals of the NWT PAS.

Ducks Unlimited Canada *NWT Program*

Lower Mackenzie Waterbird Inventory

Little is known about the value of northern boreal forest wetlands to waterfowl and other wildlife. Concerns about the decline of black ducks (scoters) in and around the lower Mackenzie Delta prompted Ducks Unlimited Canada to carry out a three year waterbird inventory project in the area. There was also interest in documenting the importance of the Delta to breeding, moulting, brooding and staging waterfowl. The inventory was completed in 2003 and information collected has identified critical wetland complexes, one of which is the Cardinal Lake area.

In addition to the intensive

waterbird surveys, an earth cover classification of the Lower Mackenzie project area was completed. This digital inventory is valuable for planning and management activities. Combined with waterbird data, the earth cover information will be used to develop a model to identify important waterbird habitats throughout portions of the Mackenzie Valley.

Middle Mackenzie Earth Cover Inventory

Development of a satellite earth cover inventory commenced in the summer of 2003. 12.8 million acres in the Fort Good Hope area are scheduled to become the site of a three year waterbird survey project by 2005. The middle Mackenzie region contains the Ramparts River and Wetlands, an area long recognized by Aboriginal people for its ecological and cultural richness. Completion of this project will link four Ducks Unlimited Canada waterbird survey project areas, representing a significant portion of the Mackenzie River watershed.

Sahtu

The residents of Fort Good Hope have identified Tsoodehnline and Tuyát'ah (the Ramparts River and Wetlands) and Fee Yee (Ramparts) as important cultural and ecological areas. Generations of young Dene and Métis have been trained to survive on this land, rich in cultural and sacred sites. In addition to the vast local knowledge of its importance to wildlife, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) has confirmed that this wetland complex is significant to breeding and staging waterfowl. DUC has completed a three year waterbird survey and earth cover classification of 7.8 million acres of land within the Sahtu Settlement Area.

Along with other government and non-government organizations, DUC has been assisting the community of Fort Good Hope with conserving this site through the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) process. DUC provided funding for a community co-ordinator to administer PAS workshops and facilitate the process within this community.



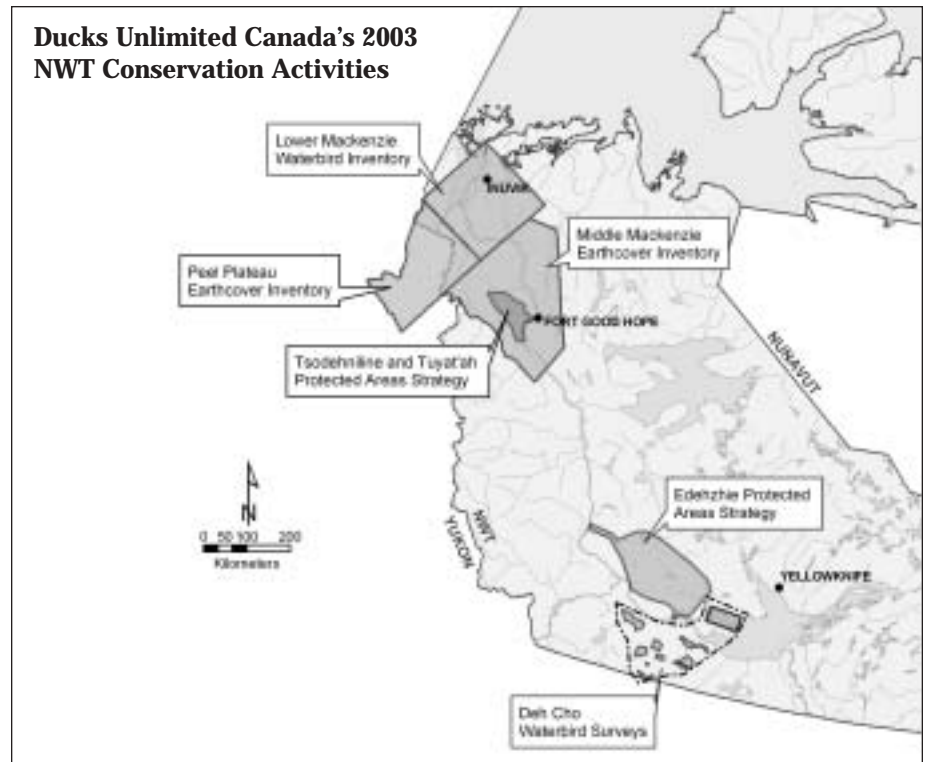
Autumn in the Mackenzie Delta - 7 a.m. (© Alicia Korpach, Ducks Unlimited Canada, 2003)

Deh Cho

Following the recent land withdrawal, an opportunity to assist the Deh Cho First Nation in securing culturally and ecologically significant areas within their land claim area has arisen. Along with community members, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is working to determine important wetland, waterbird and traditional land use values.

During the 2003 field season, DUC performed a series of aerial surveys, focusing around the Tathlina, Kakisa and Phalayse Lake areas. DUC plans to continue its support in the Deh Cho by assisting in determining which areas may be considered for permanent protection.

Ducks Unlimited Canada's 2003 NWT Conservation Activities



Government of Canada – Parks Canada

Canadian Heritage Rivers

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

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

The nomination document is presented to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board for formal review. The Board then recommends to the Minister of the Environment and the

appropriate provincial or territorial minister whether or not a river meets CHRS criteria and if it should be considered for inclusion in the system.

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

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

Further information on these processes can be obtained from:

Canadian Heritage River

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

Heritage Rivers in Nunavut include the Soper (Kuujuak) on Baffin Island, and the Thelon and Kazan Rivers in the barrenlands. The most recent nomination was the Coppermine River which was approved in February 2002 (also see article on page 24).

Designated Yukon rivers are the Alsek, Bonnet Plume and the Thirty Mile Section of the Yukon River. A management plan for the Tatshenshini River is in its final stages and is scheduled to be tabled with the CHRS Board in May 2004.

The NWT is currently represented by the Arctic Red and South Nahanni Rivers. A background study is underway on the Mackenzie River with a view to it being nominated in a few years (also see article on page 24).

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

Coppermine River (nominated)

Rich in culture and wildlife, the Coppermine River is one of the most scenic in Canada. The natural landscape and river scape has only been modified by the forces of wind, water and ice. Copper deposits found along the river were important to the first peoples who lived here. Many important archaeological sites, distinguished by copper artifacts, are found along the Coppermine. In fact, it was stories of the copper deposits that brought Samuel Hearne to the area in 1771. Hearne's documented overland journey to the river, and the massacre he witnessed at Bloody Falls, brought the Coppermine into the history books. The river continues to support the Inuit subsistence lifestyle. Caribou, muskox, wolverine, wolves, moose, fox and a variety of raptors can be found here. The Coppermine and its environment are essentially unchanged since the first British explorers saw it.

The Coppermine was officially nominated as a Canadian Heritage River in August 2002. The Government of Nunavut (GN) will now work with the regional Inuit association (RIA) on the development of a management plan. In addition, GN continues to work on the negotiation of a Conservation Area Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for Heritage Rivers with the federal government, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the RIAs. The GN has three years to present an acceptable management plan and Conservation Areas IIBA for Heritage Rivers, before official designation as a Canadian Heritage River.



Coppermine River (© Parks Canada, F. Cramp)

**Government of the NWT –
Department of Resources,
Wildlife and Economic
Development**
Parks and Tourism

Mackenzie River (proposed)

Interest in nominating the Mackenzie River (Deh Cho or “Big River” in Slavey) for inclusion in the Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS) was first generated by residents of the Deh Cho. In the summer of 2003, the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) invited Sahtu, Gwich'in and Inuvialuit residents to consider nominating the portion of the Mackenzie River that runs through their lands. As a result community and regional support for the idea is growing.

The Mackenzie has been an integral part of the economic and cultural life of Dene, Métis and Inuvialuit people for centuries, and is rich in natural and historical significance. A nomination will present an opportunity for the Aboriginal people of the NWT to share their rich traditional knowledge of the Mackenzie River with other Canadians.

Nomination proposals and related studies must come from community residents and local organizations along the river itself. The territorial

and federal governments will assist in the process by supporting the communities' efforts and ensuring the application of consistent valuation standards. Background research is being conducted into the Mackenzie River's natural, cultural and recreational values. The diversity of these values and the river's overall scale present some unique and exciting challenges for the inclusion of the Mackenzie River in the CHRS.

The main stem of the Mackenzie River is 1,800 kms. When measured to its most remote source, Lake Thutade at the head of the Findlay River, it is the longest river in Canada at 4,241 kms and the second longest in North America after the Mississippi. Its watershed is the largest in Canada, draining an area equal to more than one-sixth of Canada's landmass, and its discharge is second to that of the St. Lawrence.

Two rivers within the Mackenzie watershed, the Arctic Red and the South Nahanni, are already represented in the CHRS. Within the Mackenzie are numerous outstanding natural and cultural heritage resources: critical wildlife habitats, sand dunes, freshwater deltas and sites of historic significance. Given that the Mackenzie is so big and encompasses such a diverse range of values, the question is how to best represent these in the CHRS.

Information about the CHRS, and the nomination and designation process, can be found at www.chrs.ca (also see article on page 23). The brochure “A Guide to Establishing a Canadian Heritage River” is available at RWED offices in Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, Inuvik, and Yellowknife.

Council for Yukon First Nations Claims Areas

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency National Parks

Kluane National Park/National Park Reserve of Canada

Representatives of the Kluane First Nation (KFN) and the Governments of Yukon and Canada signed the *Kluane First Nation Final and Self-Government Agreements* at a ceremony in Burwash Landing on October 18, 2003.

KFN will retain approximately 913 km² of settlement lands, including mineral, oil and gas rights on 647 km². They will also receive approximately \$16.5 million in compensation over the next 15 years and approximately \$4.54 million for economic development, training and education projects.

Unique provisions in the *Kluane First Nation Final Agreement* include the commitment to establish three Special Management Areas (also see article on page 26):

- the Asi Keyi Park Natural Environment Park which includes the Klutlan Glacier;
- a habitat protection area at Pickhandle Lakes; and
- the Tachal Region of Kluane National Park/National Park Reserve.

The National Park Schedule in the *Agreement* provides for harvesting and trapping within Kluane, economic opportunities, joint ownership of heritage resources, and participation on the Park Management Board by members of the KFN. Three parcels of settlement land will be excised from Kluane.

Vuntut Gwitchin Caribou Fence Project

The study of the caribou fences within Vuntut National Park of Canada continued this year with an extant recording of the fence near Thomas Creek. Three weeks were

spent walking and mapping these extensive remains. Crews were impressed with the energy and knowledge exhibited in the construction and use of this fence. The field work is a valuable complement to Old Crow's interest in the story of the fence and its role in their ancestral past. Research in the community's oral history collection also began this year under the guidance of the Heritage Committee. This work will provide insights into the nature of the relationships between Vuntut Gwitchin, the caribou and the land.

National Historic Sites

New Sites Initiatives

With funding from the New Sites Initiative, the Kluane First Nation (KFN) initiated a project to identify a heritage site for consideration by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC).

Sites visited included several north of, and some within, the Tachal Region of Kluane National Park/National Park Reserve. Work conducted during the summer of 2003 involved background research and the development of a comprehensive bibliography. Field work with Elders involved the identification of heritage sites within the KFN traditional territory and the development of this information on a geographical information system database.

Community involvement is essential to the clear articulation of values related to the heritage sites within the traditional territory. Two community meetings have been held to discuss and identify values associated with various sites. Further site work and consultations with Elders are scheduled, after which the process of making a selection and the drafting of a values statement will begin. A nomination will be prepared and submitted to the HSMBC late in 2004.



Donjek Glacier with Mount Steele (left of centre) and Mount Walsh (centre)
(© Andrew Lawrence, Parks Canada Agency, 2003)



Pickhandle Lakes (© Parks Branch, Government of Yukon)

Tr'ochëk National Historic Site

Parks Canada continues to work with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation (THFN) in planning the development and presentation of this national historic site. THFN, with the support of Parks Canada, released "Hammerstones: A History of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in" an illustrated book which has proven popular with both citizens and visitors to Dawson. The 2001 publication, "Tr'ochëk: The Archaeology and History of a Han Fish Camp", was developed into a week long Grade 4 social studies unit by the Yukon Department of Education and had its first successful classroom run in 2003. The Tr'ochëk Heritage Site Steering Committee also completed and forwarded the Site Management Plan to the First Nation and Government of Canada for approval.

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

Introduction

The *Kluane First Nation Final and Self-Government Agreements* were signed on October 18, 2003 and came into effect on February 2, 2004. This

raises the total number of Final Agreements to nine of the 14 Yukon First Nations. Provisions under the *Kluane First Nation Final Agreement* direct the establishment of three special management areas: a territorial park at the Klutlan Glacier known as Asi Keyi; a habitat protection area at Pickhandle Lakes; and a special management area known as the Tachal region in Kluane National Park Reserve of Canada (also see article on page 25).

In addition to these nine final agreements, two more were initialled by negotiators in October 2003. The Kwanlin Dun and Carcross/Tagish First Nations are scheduled to hold ratification votes in the spring of 2004. These agreements will provide for territorial parks in the Snafu/Tarfu Lakes area and at Kusawa Lake in southern Yukon, and a habitat protection area in the Lewes McClintock area. The White River First Nation is also close to initialling its final agreement. There are no negotiations underway with Liard First Nation or the Ross River Dena Council at this time.

Ni'iinlii' Njik - Fishing Branch Protected Areas

The Fishing Branch River is an important salmon spawning stream

in the Canadian portion of the Yukon river system. It supports unusually large runs of salmon and has very high wildlife values associated with the local grizzly bear population. The *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement* called for the establishment of an ecological reserve in the core area and made provisions for creating a larger protected area surrounding the ecological reserve.

The Ni'iinlii' Njik - Fishing Branch Protected Areas were formally established during 2003. The ecological reserve will be managed the most stringently, while a wilderness preserve, representing the North Ogilvie Mountains ecoregion and a small portion of the Eagle Plains ecoregion, will provide additional protection to the core area. Both were established under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act* and lands are permanently withdrawn from industrial development. The habitat protection area, established under the *Wildlife Act*, is adjacent to the wilderness preserve and will help protect both the ecological reserve and the wilderness preserve through management guidelines.

A park management plan for the ecological reserve was approved in April 2000. The integrated final

management plan for the wilderness preserve and habitat protection area has been completed and the final approval process is underway. This management plan will allow for the development of the regulatory tools to manage activities under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act* and *Wildlife Act* respectively.

Tombstone Territorial Park

The commitment to establish Tombstone as a Yukon territorial park arose from the Special Management Areas provisions in the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation Final Agreement (1998)*. Commitments were made to identify a park boundary that captures representative parts of the Mackenzie and North Ogilvie Mountains ecoregions, along with important physical and biological features, and sites of archaeological and cultural values.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Government of Yukon (YG) appointed a steering committee to recommend a park boundary and prepare a park management plan. The work of the Tombstone Steering Committee has led to a boundary encompassing 2,164 km² of land for designation under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*. Control and administration of the land was transferred to the YG along with a permanent subsurface mineral withdrawal. Oil and gas withdrawals are also in place.

The Steering Committee presented the park management plan to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the YG in January 2003 for their review and approval. While consensus was reached on most points by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the YG, several issues remain outstanding, causing a delay in the adoption of the final plan. Once the issues are resolved and approved, regulations will be developed under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*. These regulations are essential for the effective management and protection of the unique diversity of habitats, wildlife, landforms and cultural resources that make up the

Tombstone Mountain area.

At the outset of the park planning exercise, a one kilometre wide Tombstone Corridor along the Dempster Highway was excluded from the park. A corridor management plan was recommended to the YG in early 2003.

Tourism and Culture Cultural Services Branch

Canada's Historic Places Initiative

Through the Government of Canada Historic Places Initiative fund, a number of projects were carried out to enhance the amount and quality of resource documentation listed in the Yukon Historic Sites Inventory.

The Heritage Resources Unit worked with White River First Nation Elders to locate and document the sites of Donjek City, Canyon City, Copper City and Lynx City in west central Yukon. Because these abandoned villages are in isolated and hard-to-reach locations little has been documented about their remains and history.

Similarly, Elders from the Ross River Dena Council assisted in archaeological and oral history research at the site of Fort Pelly Banks - one of three Hudson's Bay

trading posts established in southern Yukon.

Oral history research was also carried out with Teslin Tlingit Council Elders to record heritage sites on Teslin Lake on the Yukon/BC border.

The inventory of historic sites along the North Klondike Highway corridor and the old Mayo village was also updated. This involved working with the Ta'an Kwach'an Council and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.

Another project involved oral history and archaeology research on the Upper Blackstone River with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Hän Nation and the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute of the NWT (also see article on page 13).

Fort Selkirk Historic Site

Work continued on the interior restoration of the Taylor & Drury Store in 2003. Shelving, based on ghost images left on the walls and historic photos of store shelving used elsewhere at the site, was reconstructed and installed, and the panelled ceiling was restored. Other restoration work involved repair and construction of doors and windows, and foundation replacement. The work allowed for the training of site staff in different woodworking techniques. All work at the site is



Taylor & Drury Store restoration work - Fort Selkirk (© Cultural Services Branch, Government of Yukon, 2003)

based upon the Fort Selkirk Management Plan, 2000.

Guided walking tours, of over 40 historic buildings, extend for a kilometre along the bank of the Yukon River. See www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/FortSelkirk for an introduction to the site.

Fort Selkirk Historic Site is co-owned and co-managed by the Selkirk First Nation and the Government of Yukon according to the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement*.

Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site



Large, notched stone point - Forty Mile
(© Cultural Services Branch, Government of Yukon, 2003)

More commonly known as Forty Mile, Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site is situated on approximately 124 acres at the mouth of the Fortymile River where it enters the Yukon River near the Alaska border. The site includes a material record of prehistoric Hän use and occupation, overlain by archaeological evidence and collapsed and standing structures dating as far back as 1886. There is

evidence of two American trading posts, the Yukon's first North-West Mounted Police post, an Anglican mission and church, and a community predating the Klondike Gold Rush.

Forty Mile is co-owned and co-managed by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Hän Nation and the Government of Yukon (YG). Work continued on the production of a management plan for the site, as required under the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement*. A Steering Committee, consisting of three appointed representatives from the First Nation and three from the YG, directed the planning process and extensive public consultations.

A sixth season of archaeological investigations was carried out to mitigate impacts of structural stabilization and foundation replacement planned for the North-West Mounted Police Building and St. James Anglican Church. One of the more interesting artifacts unearthed was a large, notched stone point which dates use of the site back at least 2,400 years. Over 500 historic features have been mapped at the

site, with more than 60 of these features being building remains, 12 of which are still standing in various conditions. Evidence of two prehistoric occupation periods, believed to have been used for the seasonal harvest of fish and caribou, have been discovered.

Herschel Island Territorial Park

Two historic buildings were moved in 2003 because of shoreline erosion. The Northern Whaling & Trading Co. warehouse and the Canada Customs warehouse were relocated back from their original position. Increasingly violent fall storms have reshaped the spit where the historic whaling settlement was built. Erosion will continue to be monitored as all the remaining historic buildings are barely above sea level. It is not known if the change in weather patterns is a long term or unique event. Learn more about Herschel Island at

www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Herschel



Relocation of the Northern Whaling & Trading Co. warehouse at Herschel Island
(© Cultural Services Branch, Government of Yukon, 2003)



Rampart House Historic Site restoration project (© Cultural Services Branch, Government of Yukon, 2003)

Interpretation and Signage

Work continued on the preparation of an interpretation plan for the Yukon River. Growing numbers of travellers are experiencing the natural and cultural heritage along Yukon's largest, and most famous, river corridor. However there is no comprehensive strategy to deliver interpretive and informational messages. The Yukon River Interpretive Signage Plan will attempt to help organize messages and determine the best locations for their delivery. Indiscriminate camping along the river, and the lack of understanding of local customs and proper behaviour, is in danger of corrupting the pristine environment and impinging on the enjoyment of the river.

A historical building walking tour brochure was produced for South Dawson City as part of the "Stay Another Day" campaign. This complements similar brochures developed for six other Yukon communities. Development of the brochures involved consultations with community members, particularly "old timers" who offered intriguing tidbits of knowledge about the historic buildings and their owners.

Rampart House Historic Site

Exterior restoration of the one-and-a-half storey store at Rampart House was completed in 2003. Started four years ago, the log building has been completely dis- and re- assembled, replacing rotted members and the entire roof. Square hewn logs were fitted between vertical posts to form the walls and split poles are used to form the roof. Doors and windows were also replaced or repaired and new chinking was applied to the exterior. A crew of log workers from Old Crow has learned hewing, joinery and splicing skills during the restoration process.

Rampart House Historic Site is co-owned and co-managed by the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the Government of Yukon according to the *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement* and the subsequent 1999 Management Plan.

A four-year Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Lands Oral History Study has also been completed. Final products include a translated, transcribed, indexed and edited interview collection; a video of the project; an inventory of published and unpublished materials; school curriculum kits and a publishable manuscript on Vuntut Gwitchin history.

Yukon's First Historic Site

On December 17, 2003 the Minister of Tourism and Culture named Yukon's first historic site designated under the *Historic Resources Act*. The Mabel McIntyre House in Mayo is the first Mining Recorder's Office built in Mayo to service the Mayo Mining District. The Mayo Mining District was once the world's largest silver producer and sustained Yukon's economy between the two World Wars. Constructed in 1921, the simple, one storey log cabin later became the home of Mabel McIntyre, a Nacho Nyak Dun member, well respected in the community and a longstanding post mistress. Owned by the Village of Mayo, the building is located in the historic core of the community and will be restored as a heritage attraction.

Alaska Anthropological Association meets in the Yukon

The Government of Yukon, Heritage Resources Unit will host the 31st Annual Conference of the Alaska Anthropological Association, April 7-10, 2004. For more information visit the Heritage Resources web site at www.yukonheritage.com or, contact:

Jeff Hunston, Conference Chair or
Ruth Gotthardt, Programme Chair
Heritage Resources
Department of Tourism & Culture
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Ducks Unlimited Canada Yukon Program

2003 Conservation Initiatives

Wetlands in southern Yukon are often small and scattered through mountain trenches. These areas provide critical spring staging areas for waterbirds as they migrate north to breed in the large wetland complexes of the basins and plateaus

of northern Yukon and Alaska. These wetlands now face new risks from oil, gas and forestry development.

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) partners with local First Nations and Renewable Resources Councils to assist in the planning and field monitoring of key wetlands which will contribute to securing these areas for conservation. DUC also supports community habitat stewards in the collection of knowledge about important habitats. Stewards, administered by the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, are a link to community-based groups.

Kloo Lake - Jarvis River Wetlands

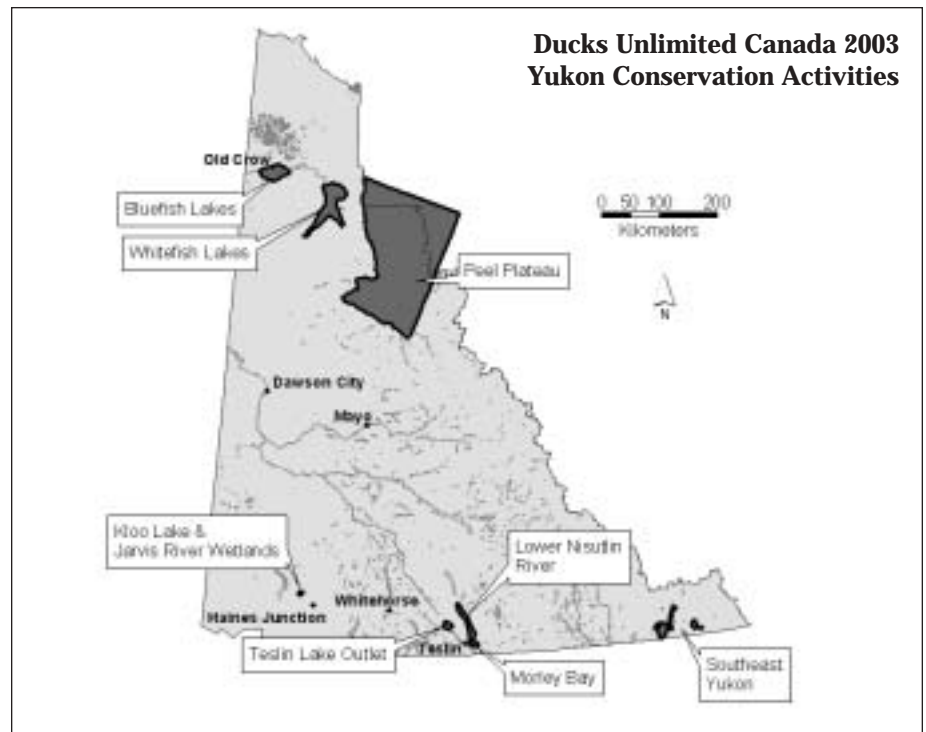
The Kloo Lake - Jarvis River wetland was identified for special designation in a recent regional wildlife plan. The Alsek Renewable Resources Council is considering partnering with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) to propose this area as a habitat protection area. Throughout 2003, DUC collected waterbird use information in this area.

Lower Nisutlin River and Morley Bay

The lower Nisutlin River is an important wetland associated with the Nisutlin River Delta Wildlife Refuge. In 2003, Ducks Unlimited Canada began collecting waterbird information about this area. The Teslin Renewable Resources Council is considering this as a proposed habitat protection area.

Peel Plateau

The Yukon Turner Lake wetland complex has been identified as a significant waterfowl area. A large part of the Peel Plateau region, including most of the Turner Lake wetlands, was recently opened to gas exploration, and future interests in the area are expected to increase if the proposed Mackenzie Valley Gas pipeline goes ahead. Land cover classification of the area has been completed and plans are in place to



follow up with several years of waterbird surveys starting in the spring of 2004.

Southeast Yukon

An accelerated resource planning process is taking place on Kaska Dene lands. The area is of key interest to oil, gas and forestry. Because the process is outside the current land claims structure, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is partnering with Kaska Dene to help advocate the conservation of wetlands and watersheds. Waterbird surveys of wetlands were carried out during the summer of 2003, and DUC is developing a memorandum of understanding in partnership with the Kaska Dene.

Stewart River

The Mayo Renewable Resources Council proposed a habitat protection area on the Stewart River. Ducks Unlimited Canada will help fund information panels at a wildlife viewing facility about the important riparian wetlands. The project is under construction and the panels will be designed in 2004.

Ducks Unlimited Canada 2003 Yukon Conservation Activities

Teslin Lake

The outlet of Teslin Lake is an important spring staging area for migrating waterbirds, and is one of 52 important wetlands in the Yukon. The Teslin Renewable Resources Council is partnering with Ducks Unlimited Canada to propose this area as a habitat protection area. Information must be gathered about the area's importance and sensitivity to, and risk from human development. Field projects, started in the spring of 2003, included weekly monitoring of staging and migrating waterbird use.

Whitefish Lakes and Bluefish Lakes

Whitefish and Bluefish Lakes are among the most productive breeding and staging wetlands in northern Yukon. Oil and gas development is proceeding and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is working with the North Yukon Renewable Resource Council to investigate and support the nomination of both areas for special conservation. DUC conducted aerial waterbird surveys in these areas in 2003 to confirm their values for waterbirds.

For More Information...

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

National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservation Areas

Parks Canada
Box 1166
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N8
www.pc.gc.ca
Attention: The Editor
New Parks North
phone: (867) 669-2820
fax: (867) 669-2829
e-mail: newparksnorth@pc.gc.ca

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Box 1871
Inuvik, NT
X0E 0T0
www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Attention: Cal Wenghofer
ISR Co-ordinator
phone: (867) 777-7509
fax: (867) 777-7501
e-mail: wenghoferc@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Nunavut Territorial Parks and Heritage Rivers

Department of the Environment
Parks and Conservation Areas
Government of Nunavut
Box 1000, Station 1120
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0
www.nunavutparks.com
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Manager, Parks and Conservation Areas
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fax: (867) 975-5990
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NWT Territorial Parks and Heritage Rivers, NWT Protected Areas Strategy

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X1A 2L9
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Attention: Miki Promislow
Co-ordinator,
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All of the agencies listed here have contributed to this publication. Our goal is to provide a single, annual publication of interest to everyone following new northern natural and cultural heritage conservation issues in a convenient and economical medium.

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

