



The
Canadian
Heritage Rivers
System



ANNUAL REPORT
 2005-2006



April, 2006

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

I present herewith on behalf of the members
of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, the
Twenty-second Annual Report on the Canadian
Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) for the fiscal
year 2005-2006.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Kristensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John Kristensen
Chairperson
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board
2005-2006



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Cover Art: Lantern Slide, Parks Canada

This image is from the Parks Canada lantern slide collection. Lantern slides were first introduced in 1849, ten years after the invention of photography, by William and Frederick Langenheim of Philadelphia. The Langeheims developed a technique to print a photographic negative onto glass to create a transparent positive image, which could be viewed by large audiences by projecting it onto a wall. The technique remained in use until the 1940s, with the discovery of Kodachrome 35 mm colour slide film.

The original image depicted on the cover was a black and white photograph. The negative was printed on glass, and then hand-tinted with transparent colours to enhance the effect when projected. The original image, likely taken in the 1920s, is from Prince Albert National Park in Saskatchewan. It shows the technique of “poling”, using 4-metre spruce poles to ascend rapids. Poling requires great skill and is hard work, but it sure beats portaging! The photographer is unknown.

For more information on the Parks Canada image collection, visit www.parkscanada.gc.ca, and click on Photo Gallery.

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Parks Canada (lantern slide collection)

Tourists in front of Parliament Buildings, Ottawa.



Chairperson's Report



The Next Ten Years: Building the Best River Conservation Program in the World

2005 was a year of celebration in my home province of Alberta. Across the province, communities joined together in Centennial fever to usher in the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the province of Alberta. The CHRS is also coming up to a significant anniversary – the tenth and final year of the two documents that form the foundation of the program – the ten-year strategic plan and CHRS Charter.

The renewal of the CHRS Charter and Strategic Plan presents an opportunity to set in place a new vision, and new goals for the CHRS. The main goal of the CHRS for the first ten years of the program was to build a system with rivers nominated in each province and territory in which all jurisdictions in Canada actively participated in. This goal was achieved by the end of the first decade of the program.

For the next decade, the mission of the CHRS, as set forth in the 1996-2006 Ten Year Strategic Plan was to “develop a river conservation program that is nationally valued, internationally recognized and reflects the significance of rivers in the identity and history of Canada”, and to “ensure that the natural, cultural and recreational values for which rivers are designated are managed in a sustainable manner”.

The CHRS has traveled far toward meeting this mission. It has been used as a model by Malaysia, Australia, and the United States (American Heritage Rivers System), among other nations. Although some gaps still exist in the reflection of Canada's history and identity by CHRS rivers, the job is well underway. Obvious gaps include major rivers such as the Mackenzie, Ottawa, St. John, North Saskatchewan and St. Lawrence, but of these, only the last is not currently on the downstream run towards nomination. Geographically, Quebec and Labrador are the only remaining gaps in the system.



John Kristensen

Moving into our third decade, I see the new vision for the CHRS growing in three directions: 1) to nurture a society that values healthy rivers and river communities not only as essential to a high quality of life, but as fundamental to our Canadian identity; 2) to work together with communities and organizations to conserve natural and cultural heritage and recreational opportunities for

Canada's most outstanding and important rivers; and 3) to become a strong, unified model for stewardship and sustainable living.

To move towards achieving this mission, I would like to present a few ideas, tossed out much like a child tosses sticks into a spring rivulet, following their progress as they get sidetracked in eddies, pinned in rapids, sometimes requiring a helping hand or an extra push to manoeuvre through or around obstacles, as they flow towards the main stream, gaining speed and momentum.

First, I see the CHRS undertaking more rigorous water quality and biodiversity monitoring, using CHRS rivers as indicators and reflections of the health of rivers across Canada.

Perhaps the first step to take towards this vision is to evaluate the water quality monitoring already being done for each Canadian Heritage River, and come up with long-term, sustainable monitoring plans for each river, identify where additional resources are needed, and where these resources might be available. Steps should be taken to ensure that water quality data are reasonably consistent across the CHRS, can be shared with other agencies through the CHRS web site or web site for individual rivers, and that indicators and testing methods are consistent, albeit individually tailored, for each river.

Secondly, I see the CHRS becoming a river manager's resource, where the best management practices on Canadian Heritage Rivers can be shared with other (CHRS and non-CHRS) river managers, through shared databases, and increased communication amongst river managers throughout Canada.



And thirdly, I see the CHRS becoming a centre of Watershed Education in Canada, where innovative approaches to teaching students about watersheds are promoted and tested, and where new research on watershed science is focused. We have started down this stream with the beginnings of a partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Federation, and affiliations with universities on several Canadian Heritage Rivers.

Looking not too far ahead, an ideal forum for presenting ideas on a new vision for the CHRS will be the 5th Canadian River Heritage Conference, to be held on the banks of the Red River in Winnipeg, June 10-14, 2007. This promises to be a fabulous event. It is being jointly organized by Rivers West, the government of Manitoba, and the CHRS. Rivers West is an organization dedicated to developing recreation, tourism, conservation and economic opportunities on the Red River. For further information, please check www.riverswest.ca.

Looking back on the year, it has indeed been a busy time for the program. Two rivers were designated, the Hayes River in Manitoba and the Bay du Nord River in Newfoundland. The Red River in Manitoba was also formally nominated into the program. We have made much progress towards the nomination of the

Ottawa River in Ontario, the Adams River in British Columbia, and the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta from the boundary of the designated portion in Banff National Park to the Saskatchewan border. Work continues towards the nomination of the St. John River in New Brunswick, and Canada's largest river, the Mackenzie, in the NWT. In Nunavut, a management plan for the Coppermine is expected within the next year.

My tenure as Chair has given me a special opportunity to step back and watch the CHRS as it heads, like the Canot de maitre shown on the CHRS logo, under full power, downstream to its destiny – the best river conservation program in the world. I am honoured to have been at the helm for part of that journey. 🍀

John Kristensen
Chairperson
 Canadian Heritage Rivers Board
 2005-2006



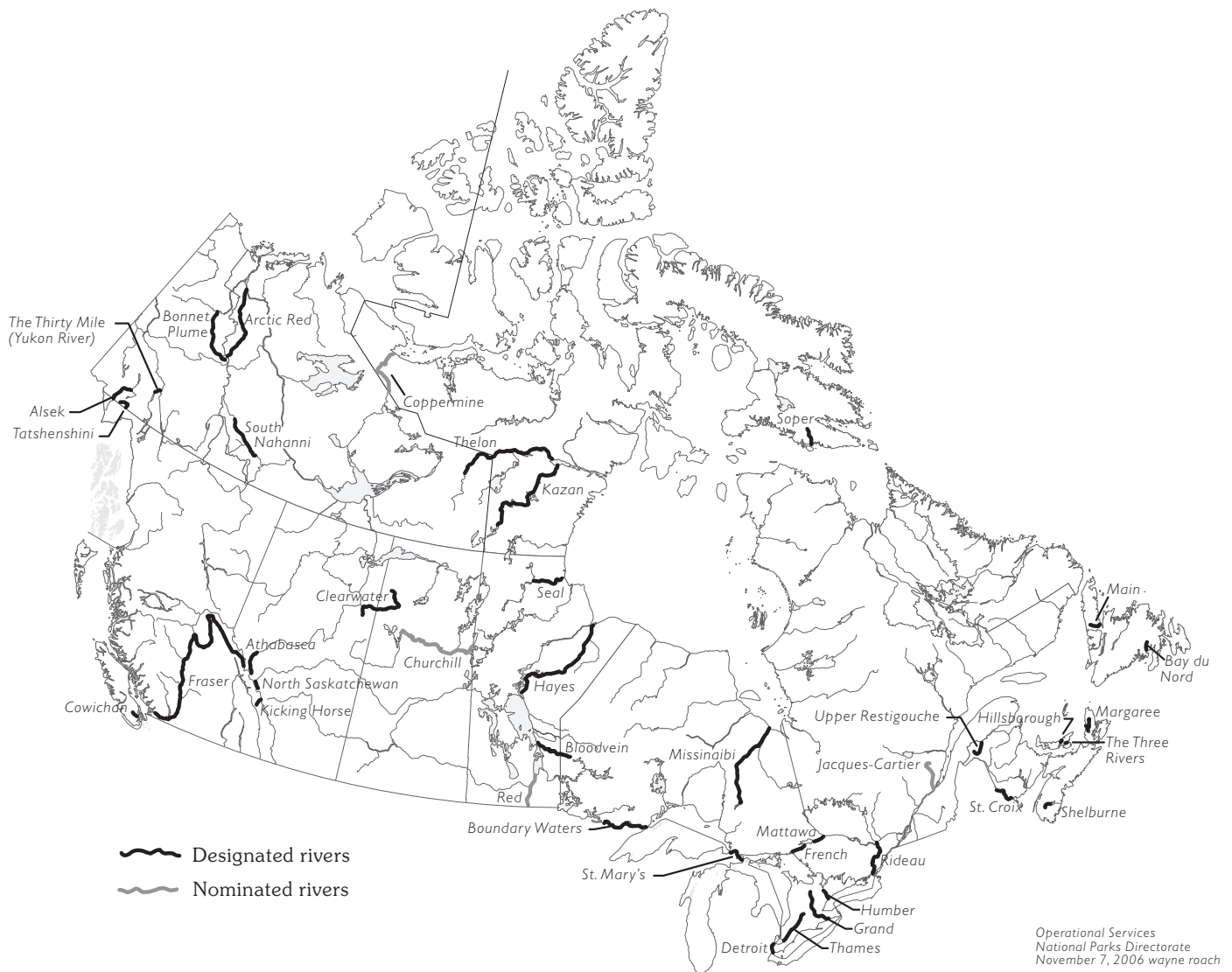
An unusual style of canoe racing.

Parks Canada (lantern slide collection)

Status of the CHRS

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

Forty rivers have been nominated to the CHRS, totalling 10,097 kms. Thirty-six of these have been designated, meaning that the management plans detailing how their heritage values will be protected have been lodged with the CHRS Board.



Designated Rivers

| River | Location Province/Territory (Park ¹) | Date of Designation | Length (in km) |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------|----------------|
| French | Ontario (French River PP) | February 1986 | 110 |
| Alsek | Yukon (Kluane NP) | February 1986 | 90 |
| South Nahanni | Northwest Territories (Nahanni NP Reserve) | January 1987 | 300 |
| Mattawa ³ | Ontario (Mattawa PP and Samuel de Champlain PP) | January 1988 | 76 |
| Athabasca ⁷ | Alberta (Jasper NP) | January 1989 | 168 |
| North Saskatchewan ⁷ | Alberta (Banff NP) | January 1989 | 49 |
| Kicking Horse ⁷ | British Columbia (Yoho NP) | January 1990 | 67 |
| Kazan | Nunavut | July 1990 | 615 |
| Thelon | Nunavut | July 1990 | 545 |
| St. Croix | New Brunswick | January 1991 | 185 |
| Yukon – The Thirty Mile ⁷ | Yukon | January 1992 | 48 |
| Seal | Manitoba | June 1992 | 260 |
| Soper ⁵ | Nunavut (Katannilik Territorial Park Reserve) | June 1992 | 248 |
| Arctic Red | Northwest Territories | September 1993 | 450 |
| Grand ⁶ | Ontario | January 1994 | 627 |
| Boundary Waters/Voyageur Waterway | Ontario (La Verendrye/Quetico/Pigeon River PPs) | September 1996 | 250 |
| Hillsborough | Prince Edward Island | January 1997 | 45 |
| Shelburne | Nova Scotia | June 1997 | 53 |
| Bonnet Plume ⁶ | Yukon | February 1998 | 350 |
| Upper Restigouche | New Brunswick | February 1998 | 55 |
| Bloodvein ⁴ | Manitoba (Atikaki PP), Ontario (Woodland Caribou PP) | June 1998 | 306 |
| Margaree ⁵ | Nova Scotia | June 1998 | 120 |
| Fraser ⁴ | British Columbia | June 1998 | 1375 |
| Humber ⁶ | Ontario | February 1999 | 100 |
| Rideau | Ontario (Rideau Waterway – Parks Canada) | February 2000 | 202 |
| Thames ⁶ | Ontario | February 2000 | 273 |
| St. Mary's | Ontario | February 2000 | 125 |
| Detroit ⁶ | Ontario | February 2001 | 51 |
| Main | Newfoundland | February 2001 | 57 |
| Clearwater ² | Alberta, Saskatchewan (Clearwater River PP) | October 2003 | 326 |
| Cowichan | British Columbia | October 2003 | 47 |
| Missinaibi | Ontario (Missinaibi PP) | May 2004 | 501 |
| Tatshenshini | Yukon | May 2004 | 45 |
| The Three Rivers | Prince Edward Island | May 2004 | 73 |
| Bay du Nord | Newfoundland (Bay du Nord Wilderness Park Reserve) | August 2005 | 75 |
| Hayes | Manitoba | August 2005 | 590 |
| TOTAL | | | 8857 |

Nominated Rivers

| River | Location Province/Territory (Park) | Anticipated Designation Date | Length (in km) |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Churchill | Saskatchewan | May 2006 | 487 |
| Coppermine | Nunavut | May 2006 | 450 |
| Jacques-Cartier | Quebec (Jacques-Cartier PP) | | 128 |
| Red | Manitoba | May 2007 | 175 |
| TOTAL | | | 1240 |

TOTAL km of NOMINATED and DESIGNATED RIVERS

10097

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

The CHRS Strategic Plan

Mission

Our mission, to be achieved by 2006, is to:

Develop a river conservation program that is nationally valued, internationally recognized, and reflects the significance of rivers in the identity and history of Canada, and ensure that the natural, cultural and recreational values for which rivers are designated are managed in a sustainable manner.

Status of the CHRS Strategic Plan

The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board continued over the past year to implement and evaluate the CHRS's Ten Year Strategic Plan. 2006 represents the tenth and final year in the implementation of the Strategic Plan which has guided the program's development. The Strategic Plan identified four key strategic issues which are the foundation for organizing actions towards achieving our mission by 2006; actively managing the system, communications, leadership and resourcing.

Some of the achievements in 2005-2006 towards these four initiatives include the following:

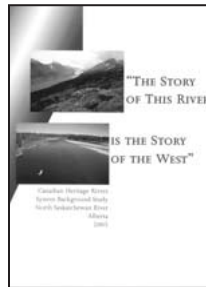
Actively Managing the System

As the lead federal agency in the CHRS one of the roles of Parks Canada is to provide technical and financial assistance to participating jurisdictions for studies and plans that lead to including rivers in the System. This assistance is directed to specific projects on the advice of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board.

Major Projects for 2005-2006

- Completed background studies of the Adams River British Columbia, the Ottawa River, (Ontario and Quebec), and the North Saskatchewan River, Alberta.
- Continued ongoing work on background studies for the St. John River, New Brunswick, and the Mackenzie River, Northwest Territories.
 - Commenced work on a background study of the Shubenacadie River, Nova Scotia.
- Commenced work on the management plans and public consultations for the Red River, Manitoba and the Coppermine River, Nunavut.

- Completed the Ten Year Monitoring Reports for the Seal River, Manitoba and the Boundary Waters, Voyageur Waterway, Ontario.



- Completed nomination documents for the Red River, Manitoba, the Ottawa River (Ontario portion), and for the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta.
- Implemented annual report monitoring for all designated Canadian Heritage Rivers.

Communications

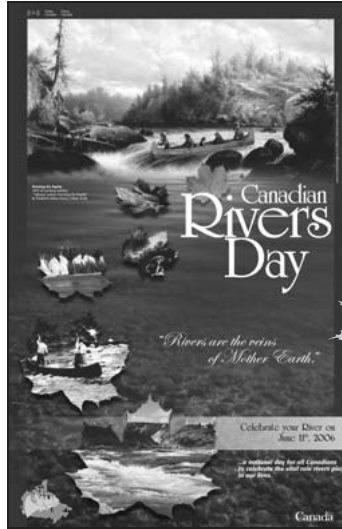
The CHRS Secretariat is responsible for spreading the CHRS message of honouring our rivers throughout Canada and the world. Highlights for 2005-2006 include:

- Implemented the recommendations of a major study to improve the CHRS Communications and Marketing Program.
- Completed Year 2 of the new CHRS Communications Plan.
- Worked collaboratively with Rivers West and the Government of Manitoba to plan the Fifth Canadian River Heritage Conference to be held in Winnipeg, June 10-14, 2007.
- Spearheaded the organization of the third Canadian Rivers Day. Produced a special commemorative Rivers Day poster, which was circulated nationally, and web pages dedicated to Canadian Rivers Day. Partnered with Ottawa Riverkeeper to organize a local Riverday event in the National Capital Region, a community paddle on the Ottawa River, as well as assisting in the organization of other local



Riverday events. A Young Canada Works student was hired to assist in the promotion of Canadian Rivers Day.

- Displayed the CHRS exhibit at several venues in Ontario.
- Displayed the twentieth anniversary Heritage Rivers Quilt at sites in Ontario and Alberta.
- Continued to update the CHRS website, including a new Related Sites section which provides an annotated listing of organizations involved with the CHRS and river conservation, as well as creating new Canadian Riverday pages.
- Produced commemorative plaques for the Three Rivers in Prince Edward Island, Hayes River in Manitoba, and Bay du Nord River in Newfoundland, for plaque unveiling ceremonies during the summer/fall of 2005.
- Prepared and distributed the 2004-2005 CHRS Annual Report, distributed nationally and internationally and electronically.
- Published the 2006 Heritage Rivers Calendar in partnership with Paddling Canada (formerly known as the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association). Three thousand, four hundred calendars were printed and distributed across the country generating excellent publicity for the CHRS. All profits from the calendar are used to support national river conservation projects sponsored by Paddling Canada.
- Completed CHRS Generic Powerpoint Presentation and distributed CDs to Board members.



- Initiated organization, working with Rivers West Inc. and the Manitoba Conservation, of the Fifth Canadian River Heritage Conference to be held in June 2007 at the Hotel Fort Garry in downtown Winnipeg, Manitoba, near the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers.

Leadership

- Federal, provincial and territorial Ministers continue to affirm their government's commitment to the Heritage Rivers Program through the CHRS Charter.
- Completed the ninth annual review and update of the strategic plan, including the review of trends and issues of strategic importance for the CHRS.
- Adjusted the strategic planning policy and procedures (calendar, reports and process) to optimize the use of the strategic plan as the key management document for the CHR Board.
- The CHRS Technical Planning Committee continues to be active in undertaking tasks defined by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board including the review of nomination documents, management plans and Ten Year Monitoring Reports.

Resourcing

- The CHRS Finance Committee continues to deal with resourcing issues and budget items. 🍁



York Boat on the Red River.

Alberta Archives



The Canadian Heritage Rivers System

One of the fundamental principles of the CHRS is that the nomination and management of Canadian Heritage Rivers remain with the responsible government. Generally, this is the provincial governments in the south, the federal government in national parks or on other federal lands, and the federal and territorial governments jointly in the north. ❁



Ministers Responsible for the CHRS (2005-2006)

The Honourable Rona Ambrose
Minister of Environment
Government of Canada

The Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development
Government of Canada

The Honourable Clyde Jackman
Minister of Environment and Conservation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Honourable Mark Parent
Minister of Environment and Labour
Government of Nova Scotia

The Honorable Keith Ashfield
Minister of Natural Resources
Government of New Brunswick

The Honourable Philip Brown
Minister of Tourism
Government of Prince Edward Island

L'honorable Claude Béchar
Le ministre du Développement durable,
de l'Environnement et des Parcs
Gouvernement du Québec

The Honourable David Ramsay
Minister of Natural Resources
Government of Ontario

The Honourable Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation
Government of Manitoba

The Honourable John Nilson
Minister of Saskatchewan Environment
Government of Saskatchewan

The Honourable Denis Ducharme
Minister of Alberta Community Development
Government of Alberta

The Honourable Barry Penner
Minister of Environment
Government of British Columbia

The Honourable Brendan Bell
Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the Northwest Territories

The Honourable Patterk Netser
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

The Honourable Dennis Fentie
Minister of Environment
Government of Yukon

The Board

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

The Board is composed of one representative from Parks Canada, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), and each of the provincial and territorial governments. New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are each represented on the Board by a private citizen.

A Chairperson is elected for each fiscal year from among the Board's members and is responsible for organizing and chairing Board meetings, directing the operation of the Secretariat, and promoting public awareness of the CHRS. The 2006-2007 Chairperson will be Eric Val, Director, Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Yukon Territory. ❁

CHRS Board of Directors 2005-2006

John Kristensien, 2005-2006
Chairperson (Alberta)

Sian French (Newfoundland
& Labrador)

David Boyce (Prince Edward island)

John Leduc (Nova Scotia)

Harry Collins (New Brunswick)

Alain Hebert (Quebec)

Adair Ireland-Smith (Ontario)

Gord Jones (Manitoba)

Ken Lozinsky (Saskatchewan)

Lynn Kennedy (British Columbia)

David Monteith (Nunavut)

Gerry LePrieur (Northwest Territories)

Eric Val (Yukon)

Doug Stewart (Parks Canada)

Glenn Stephens (Department of Indian
Affairs and Northern Development)

CHRS Staff

Don Gibson: National Manager

Max Finkelstein: Marketing and Publicity

Brian Grimsey: Senior Planner



The CHRS Secretariat.

Mark McCormack, Parks Canada



Rivernews

This was a busy year for the CHRS. Two rivers were designated to the system, the Bay du Nord in Newfoundland, and the Hayes River in Manitoba. Also in Manitoba, the Red River from the United States border in North Dakota to its mouth at Lake Winnipeg, was nominated to the CHRS. Work is ongoing on the management plan for the Red River in Manitoba. It is hoped that a designation ceremony will be held in Winnipeg, on Canadian Rivers Day, 2007, at the Fifth Canadian Rivers Heritage Conference.

This conference, which is anticipated to be the marquis river event of 2007, is being hosted by Rivers West, in collaboration with the Government of Manitoba and the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. This will be the place to be to learn about river management, recreation, conservation, tourism, and other river-related subjects. The conference will have a special focus on the Red River. The Red has touched the lives of countless Canadians through its role in the fur trade, the expansion and settlement of Western Canada, the birth of Winnipeg, the great flood of 1950 and the construction of the floodway, and the range of recreational opportunities it now offers. This five-day event will bring you face-to-face with experts from around the globe and the latest information on how communities are implementing environmentally sustainable management practices. You'll hear success stories and practical strategies for maximizing tourism opportunities along rivers and enjoy a hands-on approach to learning through field trips, workshops and exhibits. Exciting keynote speakers, musicians and artists who have been inspired by rivers will come together for a unique opportunity to celebrate river heritage.

Plan now to join national and international delegates at the beautiful and historic junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers in Winnipeg. This is your chance to share your river management experience with others. Conference organizers are looking for speakers. Visit www.riverswest.ca for details on how to submit your abstract.

Work continues towards the nomination of several of Canada's most important rivers. The background study on the Ottawa River was completed and nomination of the Ontario portion of this great river to the CHRS is expected later in 2006. The work on the Ottawa has galvanized community interest in the river. For instance, in the city of Ottawa, proposals are being developed for facilities for river travellers to camp in the city, interpretive exhibits on the Ottawa's voyageur and logging heritage, and a detailed map for river travellers including information on the historic and current portages.

The background study of Canada's biggest river, the mighty Mackenzie, continues into its third year. Documenting the river's cultural heritage of the Deh Cho, Sahtu, Gwich'in, Inuvialuit, and Métis peoples who live along the river is still the current focus of the work, but work is also being carried out on documenting the river's natural values. On the South Nahanni, Deh Cho First Nations and Parks Canada are working together to expand the boundaries of Nahanni National Park to include a greater portion of the watershed of the South Nahanni River. Currently, studies on wildlife, geology, traditional land use, mineral resources and socio-economic impacts of park expansion are on-going to determine the future boundaries of this park, and the Canadian Heritage River that is its centrepiece. Also up north, in Nunavut, work on the Coppermine River Management Plan is ongoing, with the goal of presenting the final management plan to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board in 2007. Progress also continues on the Heritage Rivers Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA), which will raise the profile of the CHRS in Nunavut.

On the prairies, an initiative led by the North Saskatchewan Watershed alliance is working to have the North Saskatchewan designation expanded downstream to the Saskatchewan border. The nomination document is close to completion, and nomination of the North Saskatchewan in the province of Alberta is expected later in 2006. Hopefully, the designation of this river, the main route across

the prairies to the Rockies, and the second largest Canadian watershed, will be celebrated by the 2008 David Thompson Brigade, a flotilla of replica fur trade canoes that will recreate David Thompson's historic journey from Rocky Mountain House to Fort William (Thunder Bay), Ontario.

The most significant development for the Canadian Heritage River System in Nova Scotia this year was the initiation of a background study for the Shubenacadie Waterway. The waterway is recognized as an important part of the province's cultural heritage, with connections to Mi'kmaq, Acadian and British settlement and use. It is well known for its tidal bore phenomenon, wildlife, and scenery. The waterway also has a long history of recreational use that continues today.

The Shubenacadie Canal Commission hosted a community forum on the Waterway that highlighted the CHRS program. It was attended by a diverse group of more than 70 stakeholders. Building on the keynote address by renowned author and river advocate James Raffan, forum attendees discussed their interests and aspirations for the waterway. Perhaps the Shubenacadie waterway will be third Nova Scotia river to be nominated to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

At the other end of the country, work has begun on the Adams River Background Study, expected to be completed in 2006. The Adams River, home to the most spectacular run of sockeye salmon in Canada, is located in the interior of British Columbia, an area of Canada that does not yet have a river in the CHRS.

The CHRS Secretariat took the lead in promoting the 3rd Canadian River Day, June 12, 2005. A poster was printed and distributed nationally (5,000 copies), and a dedicated web pages were developed on the CHRS web site. Locally, in Ottawa, CHRS teamed up with the Ottawa Riverkeeper to organize a Canadian River Paddle on the mighty Ottawa River through the heart of the national capital.

A number of events took place across Canada, including shoreline clean-ups, interpretive walks, and community paddle-a-thons. The Humber was a focus for Rivers Day celebrations, with Voyageur canoe races, campfire cooking, free fishing rods for children, information about environmental stewardship and how to get involved, a picnic at Etienne Brulé Park and a bike ride along the Humber River in Toronto.



TRCA

Planting trees along the Humber River, Ontario.

Building on this experience, the CHRS will again take the lead role in organizing Rivers day 2006. An application for another Young Canada Works student position was accepted and will be filled beginning in April 2006. The incumbent will assist in raising awareness of, promoting and coordinating Canadian Rivers Day 2006, to evaluate the success and impact of Rivers Day events, creating Canadian Rivers Day web pages on the CHRS site, create a national registry of events and participants, produce and distribute a Canadian Rivers Day poster, organize local events in collaboration with Ottawa Riverkeeper and local community groups (a Paddle-a-thon, stream clean-ups, interpretive river walks) and to make recommendations for increasing participation in this national day.

New designations 2005-2006

Two rivers were designated to the program in 2005-2006, The Hayes River in Manitoba, and the Bay du Nord River in Newfoundland.

Hayes River, Manitoba (590 km)



K.Schykulski

Hayes River.

The designation of the Hayes River to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System was formalized in August, 2005. This majestic river is renowned for its natural beauty, recreational value and historic significance. The Hayes is an important transportation route and source of food, water and spiritual renewal for First Nation communities along its banks. It was a central transportation corridor for early explorers and fur traders, and remains one of Canada's premier wilderness canoe routes.

Recognition of the Hayes as a Canadian Heritage River was the cooperative achievement Norway House, Bunibonibee, Shamattawa and York Factory First Nations, and Manitoba Conservation. Its designation will be marked by a series of special events over the summer of 2006 in Winnipeg, Oxford House, Norway House and York Factory.

Celebrations are planned for Canadian Rivers Day on June 11th, 2006, at Fort Whyte Centre in Winnipeg, and later on in the summer at Norway

House during York Boat Days, Oxford House, at the Treaty Days event, and at York Factory on the shores of Hudson Bay.

The Hayes River is the third Manitoba river to be designated to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. It joins the Bloodvein River (designated in 1987) and the Seal River (designated in 1992). Designation of the Red River is anticipated for 2007.

Bay du Nord River, Newfoundland (75 km)

The Bay du Nord River system was nominated as Newfoundland and Labrador's second Canadian Heritage River in 1992 for its great recreational potential and magnificent natural features. It was designated to the CHRS in August, 2005. The Bay du Nord River flows through the pristine landscape of the Bay du Nord Wilderness Reserve, in south-central Newfoundland. It sweeps paddlers past wide barrens where caribou roam, through white-water "rattles" and quite pools where countless brook trout, landlocked salmon, and Atlantic salmon swim, and finally enters the salt waters of Fortune Bay on Newfoundland's south coast. The river crosses the Hermitage Fault, which marks the juncture where North America, Europe and North Africa collided 120 million years ago.



Max Finkelstein

The Bay du Nord River passes through the range of the Middle Ridge caribou herd, the largest caribou herd on the island of Newfoundland.



The breathtaking scenery and the undisturbed wildlife and flora make this area a naturalist's dream. The proposed Bay du Nord Heritage River Corridor covers about 997 km², of which about 96 percent (960 km²) falls within the *Bay du Nord Wilderness Reserve* and the Middle Ridge Wildlife Reserve. The two reserves guarantee the protection of the river system and will serve to preserve this river and its many features for the enjoyment of future generations. The remaining four percent of the river Corridor will be protected through a co-operative effort among resource agencies.

Both representative and unique, the Bay du Nord River offers visitors an opportunity to experience a true wilderness adventure in the heart of Newfoundland. A plaque unveiling ceremony is planned for October, 2006.

Monitoring Canadian Heritage Rivers

The focus of the CHRS continues to shift from designating new rivers into the program to better managing the rivers we have. Significant steps towards improving the integrity of CHRS rivers, repairing mistakes of the past, or avoiding these same mistakes in the future continue to be taken on many rivers in the CHRS. A sampling of initiatives that took place in 2005-2006 includes the following.

The Arctic Red River in the Northwest Territories was designated in 1993, and recently submitted its first Ten Year Report. The good news is that the natural and cultural heritage values of the river have not changed in the decade since received Heritage River status. The archaeological and oral history resources are now much better documented than at nomination. Archaeological studies, which included the training of local Gwich'in people in archaeological field work, have resulted in many sites receiving protection within the Arctic Red River management area. The publication of "Gwichya Gwich'in Googwandak: The History and Stories of the Gwichya Gwich'in", a book presenting the Gwichya Gwich'in

life on the land from pre-contact times to the present, and a video "Tsiigehnjiiik: Life Along the Arctic Red River", document stories, places of cultural significance, traditional campsites and other cultural information. The book and video were produced by the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI). The documentation of the cultural heritage of the Arctic Red River epitomizes the pride and interest that heritage river designation can catalyze, and sets an example for other communities on Canadian Heritage Rivers to emulate.

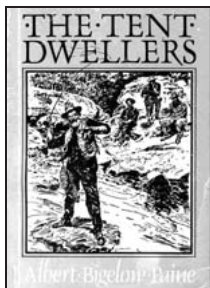
The pristine Arctic Red River may not appear to have much in common with the highly urbanised Humber River in Ontario. However, community involvement, concern, and support for the river's heritage values is also strong here. Over 1000 people participated in over 40 events on the Humber River. These included tree plantings, clean ups, fish monitoring, a deer census and numerous guided hikes. This is also the case for the Rideau River, where community undertakings in 2005-2006 included planting of 140,000 trees, assessing 20 km of neglected tributary streams under the City of Ottawa's Stream Watch program, and carrying out 72 "clean water" projects, such as planting shoreline buffers and fencing livestock away from sensitive river banks. The Rideau Waterway was one of eleven sites in Canada selected as potential World Heritage Sites. Another site included on Canada's tentative list of World Heritage Sites is Atikaki Provincial Park in Manitoba and Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario. Several First Nations and Manitoba and Ontario governments plan to form a non-profit corporation called Pimachiowin Aki to oversee management of a project leading to the development of a nomination for World Heritage Site status. The Bloodvein River in Manitoba and Ontario flows through the heart of the Pimachiowin Aki study area. The World Heritage Site program is administered by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world.



Max Finkelstein

Making life-long connections to the river.

Down east on the Margaree, the good news is that striped bass numbers are on the increase, in contrast to dropping numbers elsewhere on the west coast of Cape Breton Island. But the recent introduction of smallmouthed bass in Lake Ainslie could negatively affect native populations of brook trout, gaspereau and landlocked salmon. Fortunately, the introduced fish have not (yet) been able to breed successfully thus far.



On the Shelbourne, planning has been initiated with community partners, to develop The Tent Dwellers heritage canoe route which commemorates the 1908 canoe trip chronicled by Albert Bigelow Paine.

The Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute has established a permanent field station in the Shelburne River watershed, including a major brook trout study based at Kejimikujik National Park, and a limnology study. Research at the institute will boost scientific

understanding of natural and cultural values associated with the Shelburne River. On our CHRS wish list is a research institute such as this one associated with every Canadian Heritage River.

This is exactly what is happening on the Grand River in Ontario. In 2005, the GRCA (Grand River Conservation Authority) signed Memoranda of Understanding with Wilfrid Laurier University and Conestoga College, the University of Guelph and the University of Waterloo. The purpose of the memoranda is to promote research and education to improve watershed health, increase heritage awareness and conservation, provide challenging research opportunities, and assist in the management of the watershed.

Two Canadian Heritage Rivers were celebrated this past year in books: *The Humber: Tales of a Canadian Heritage River.*, by Ron Fletcher, and *Painting the Grand River Valley*, by well-known Canadian artist, Peter Etril Snyder, featuring a series of paintings of 89 scenes along the length of the Grand River, created over a forty-year span.

For annual status reports on rivers designated to the CHRS, visit our website, www.chrs.ca, and click on "State of the Rivers", or contact the Secretariat. 🍁



For more information:

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