



The
Canadian
Heritage Rivers
System



ANNUAL REPORT
 2003-2004



April 2004

*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 Twentieth
Annual Report on the Canadian Heritage Rivers
System (CHRS) for the fiscal year 2003-2004.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Boyce', enclosed within a simple, hand-drawn oval border.

David Boyce
Chairperson
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board
2003-2004



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Judy Gascho-Jutzi

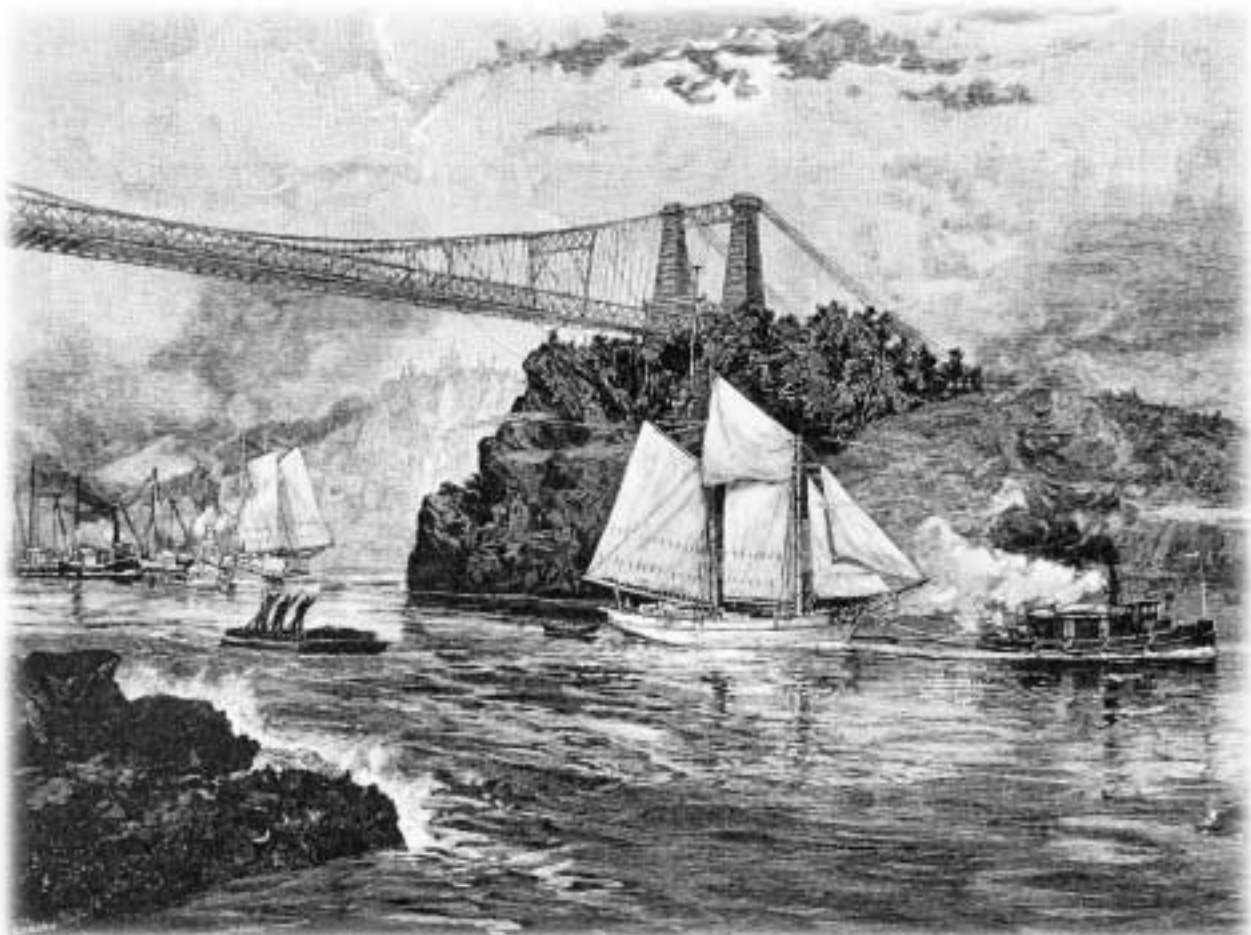


Judy's passion for quilting arises from a love of colour, fabrics and sewing. Raised in Waterloo County, quilts have always been a part of her life. Most of Judy's quilts have been designed with a specific story to tell and often depict scenes and use fabrics that tell that story. Judy lives in Kitchener, Ontario with her husband, daughter, Siberian husky and ever growing fabric stash.

Artist's Statement: The creation of the quilt, *Ribbons of Life*, has been an extraordinary experience. The quilt picture evolved over many months. I had a picture in my mind of vignettes with the river flowing through them. There were many aspects to feature: the historical, the cultural, the natural and the recreational – all values of Canadian Heritage Rivers. The main focus of the quilt was always THE RIVER, in all its magnificence, showing its many faces, power and beauty, a life force representative of the geographical diversity of Canada.

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Public Archives of Canada

Suspension-bridge, St. John, at low tide



Chairperson's Report:

2004 is a year of celebration and a milestone for the Canadian Heritage Rivers program. It has been twenty years that the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) has been recognizing and helping communities on Canada's outstanding rivers. While no new rivers were nominated this year, two rivers were formally designated as Canadian Heritage Rivers: the Cowichan River in British Columbia and the Clearwater-Christina Rivers in Alberta.

There are now 39 rivers either nominated or designated with some of Canada's best known rivers entering the program. Community progress on the Mackenzie River, the Red River, the Saint John River and the Ottawa River is encouraging while all regions across the country continue to bring forward rivers significant in a Canadian context.

2004 is a special year for the Grand River Conservation Authority. Not only are they to host the fourth Canadian River Heritage Conference, but the Grand River is also celebrating ten years as a Canadian Heritage River. Three new plaques are to be dedicated for the Nith River, Conestogo River and Eramosa River. All three are major tributaries of the Grand River watershed. For the conference, singer/songwriter James Gordon has been commissioned to produce a CD about each heritage river. I had the privilege of writing liner notes on behalf of my fellow CHRS board members.



David Boyce

Sunday, June 8th 2003 marked the first Canadian Rivers Day. Proclaimed by the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Sheila Copps, in the international year of fresh water, it marks a further advancement to bring attention to Canada's outstanding rivers. The CHRS board endorsed the proclamation and is pleased that it will be officially taking place annually on the second Sunday in June.

The CHRS is at a point of maturing. The CHRS board is looking forward to moving the program to a higher level through stronger communications initiatives. Much of the underlying planning for the CHRS is being renewed. The charter has a ten-year duration with its renewal in 2006. Having been signed in 1997 it did not include the newly formed (1999) territory of Nunavut. The board also faces interesting debates about what it means to "complete the system."

Being from Prince Edward Island (PEI) and being Chair of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board seems like a bit of a contradiction. PEI does not have any 'rivers.' Under the strictest definition, they are streams that flow into tidal estuaries. The wonderful part of the Canadian Heritage Rivers program is that many types of water bodies can be accepted. The array of watercourses that are already part of the CHRS includes canals, river corridors, sections of rivers, whole watersheds, and multiple watersheds.



Working on river management in PEI at this scale is not without its challenges. PEI is Canada's most densely populated and agriculturally intensive province. Our rivers cannot achieve CHRS designation under the natural heritage values due to this high level of settlement and use. This is not to say that natural and environmental factors are not important. Completely the opposite is true. It is the abundance of good water quality and rich fish and forest resources that has enhanced our region and its cultural history from the time of native peoples to the European settlers.

I look forward to promoting and celebrating PEI's heritage rivers along with the other rivers across the country. I hope that citizens across this country will seek out how your rivers are being celebrated in your area and make every day Canadian Rivers Day.

Finally, I have been most honoured to serve as the Chair of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. I look forward to serving with Gerry LePrieur, the new chairperson from the Northwest Territories. The work in the year ahead will signal a new evolution in the program as it matures and looks toward the next decade of celebrating our river heritage in Canada. 🍁



David Boyce
Chairperson
 Canadian Heritage Rivers Board
 2003-2004



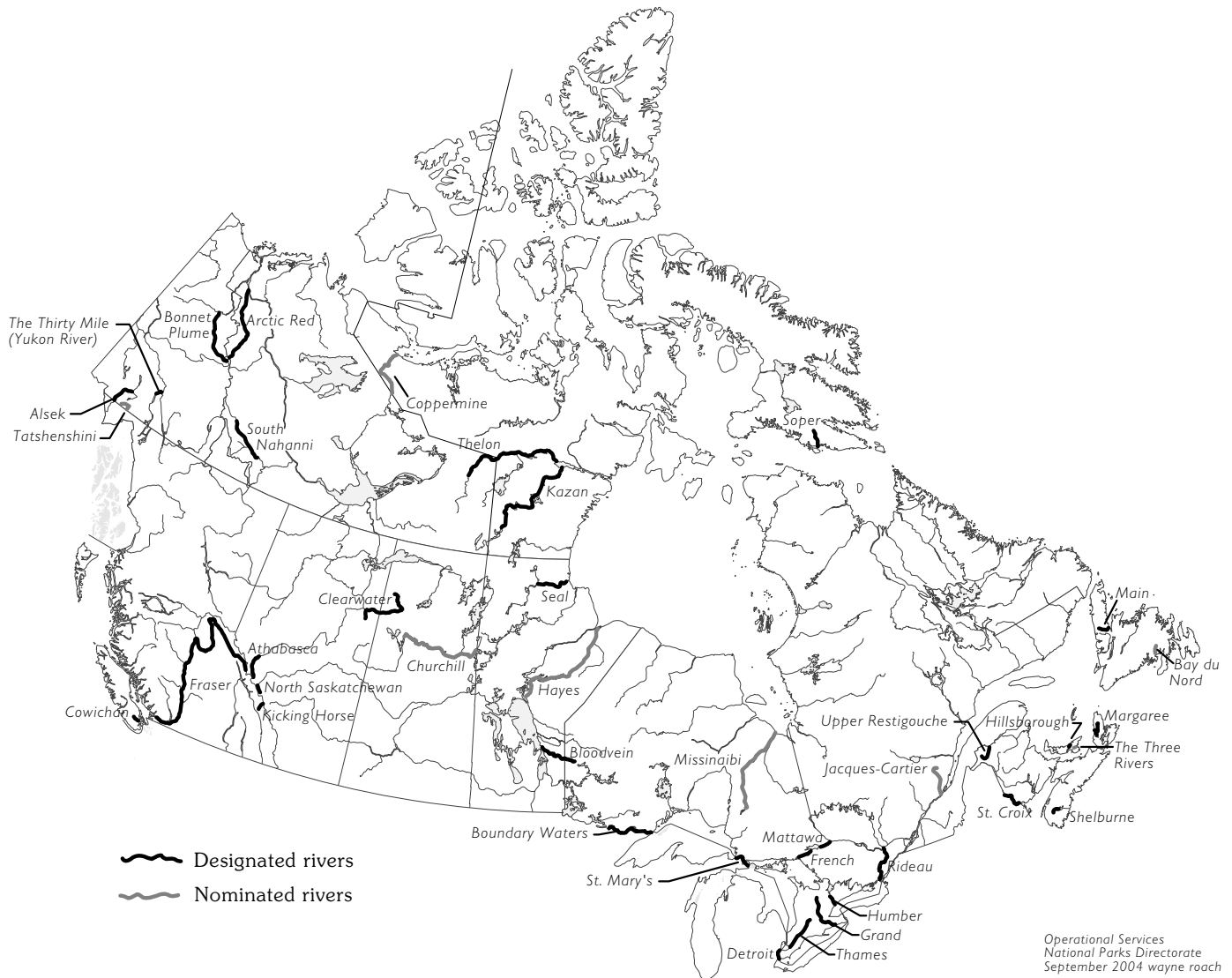
Red River



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.

Thirty-nine rivers have been nominated to the CHRS, totalling 9,922 kms. Thirty-one 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
TOTAL			7573

Nominated Rivers

River	Location Province/Territory (Park)	Anticipated Designation Date	Length (in km)
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
Jacques-Cartier	Quebec (Jacques-Cartier PP)	August 2005	128
Hayes	Manitoba	August 2005	590
Churchill	Saskatchewan	May 2006	487
Coppermine	Nunavut	May 2006	450
TOTAL			2349

TOTAL km of NOMINATED and DESIGNATED RIVERS

9922

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.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board continued over the past year to implement and evaluate the CHRS's Ten Year Strategic Plan. 2004 represents the eighth 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 and completing the system, communications, leadership and resourcing.

Some of the achievements in 2003-2004 towards these four initiatives include the following:

Actively Managing and Completing 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 2003-2004:

- Commenced background study of the Ottawa River (Ontario and Quebec), Red River (Manitoba), and St. John River (New Brunswick).
- Continued background study of the Mackenzie River, Northwest Territories.
- Final Management plans produced for Missinaibi River (Ontario), Tatshenshini River (Yukon), The Three Rivers (Prince Edward Island), Cowichan River (British Columbia) and Clearwater River (Alberta section).
- Ongoing work on the management plans and public consultations for the Hayes River, Manitoba.
- Completed Ten Year Monitoring Report for the Grand River, Ontario.

Communications:

The CHRS Secretariat is responsible for spreading the CHRS message of honoring our rivers throughout Canada and the world. Highlights for 2003-2004 include:

- Completed major study including an independent evaluation/audit of the existing CHRS Communication and Marketing Program to measure its effectiveness in raising public awareness of the CHRS.
- Finalized new CHRS 2004-2007 Communications Plan (accepted by CHRS Board).
- Supported Rivers Canada in the organization of the second Canadian Rivers Day.
- Worked collaboratively with the Grand River Conservation Authority and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to plan and host the Fourth Canadian River Heritage Conference at the University of Guelph.
- CHRS exhibit and display highlighted at the sixth Riverfestival, Symposium and Trade Expo in Brisbane Australia, September, 2003.
- Continued to update CHRS website.
- Produced fact sheet for the Hayes River, Manitoba.

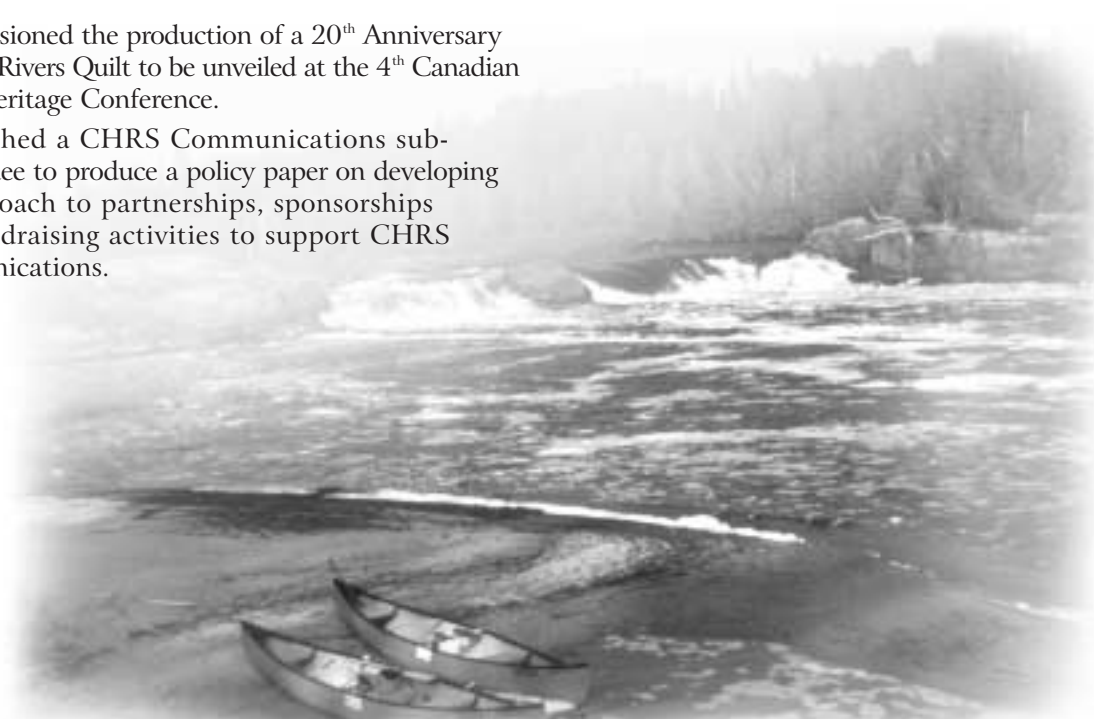


- Prepared and distributed 2002-2003 CHRS Annual Report, distributed nationally and internationally, and electronically.
- Presented two papers at the Parks Research Forum of Ontario (PFRFO) conference “Protected Areas and Watershed Management”, held at the University of Waterloo.
- Published 2004 Heritage Rivers Calendar, in partnership with the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association. Five thousand calendars were printed, and almost 4,000 were given away or sold, generating a profit for the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association, and excellent publicity for the CHRS.



2005 Canadian Heritage Rivers Calendar

- Commissioned the production of a 20th Anniversary Heritage Rivers Quilt to be unveiled at the 4th Canadian River Heritage Conference.
- Established a CHRS Communications sub-committee to produce a policy paper on developing an approach to partnerships, sponsorships and fundraising activities to support CHRS communications.



Missinaibi River

Leadership

- Federal, provincial and territorial Ministers continue to affirm their governments’ commitment to the Heritage Rivers Program through the CHRS Charter.
- Completion of seventh annual review and update of the strategic plan, including the review of trends and issues of strategic significance 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 continue 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

- Completed framework on funding of CHRS Communications Program, 2004-2007.
- The CHRS Finance Committee continues to deal with resourcing issues and budget items. 🍁



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 (2003-2004)

The Honourable David Anderson
Minister of Environment
Government of Canada

The Honourable Andy Scott
Minister of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development
Government of Canada

The Honourable Tom Osborne
Minister of Environment and Conservation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Honourable Ron Russell
Minister of Environment and Labour
Government of Nova Scotia

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

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

The Honourable Sam Hamad
Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks
Government of Quebec

The Honourable David Ramsay
Minister of Natural Resources
Government of Ontario

The Honourable Steve Ashton
Minister of Conservation
Government of Manitoba

The Honourable David Forbes
Minister of Environment
Government of Saskatchewan

The Honourable Gene Zwozdesky
Minister of Community Development
Government of Alberta

The Honourable Bill Barisoff
Minister of Water, Land, and Air Protection
Government of British Columbia

The Honourable Brenden Bell
Minister of Resources, Wildlife
and Economic Development
Government of the Northwest Territories

The Honourable Olayuk Akesuk
Minister of Sustainable Development
Government of Nunavut

The Honourable Jim Keayon
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. British Columbia, 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 2004-2005 Chairperson will be Gerry LePrieur, Director, Parks and Tourism, Northwest Territories. ❁

CHRS Board of Directors 2003-2004

David Boyce 2003-2004 Chairperson
(Prince Edward Island)

Mike Cahill (Newfoundland & Labrador)

John Leduc (Nova Scotia)

Harry Collins (New Brunswick)

Alain Hebert (Quebec)

Adair Ireland-Smith (Ontario)

Gord Jones (Manitoba)

Ken Lozinsky (Saskatchewan)

John Kristensen (Alberta)

Mark Angelo (British Columbia)

Gerry LePrieur (Northwest Territories)

David Monteith (Nunavut)

Eric Val (Yukon)

Nik Lopoukhine (Parks Canada)

Martha Johnson (Department of Indian
Affairs and Northern Development)

CHRS Staff

Don Gibson: National Manager

Max Finkelstein: Marketing and Publicity

Brian Grimsey: Senior Planner



Red River

RIVERNEWS

There were no new nominations to the CHRS in 2003-2004. However, as this Annual Report goes to press, exciting discussions are on-going concerning nominating four of Canada's most important rivers: the Mackenzie River, Canada's biggest river (<http://www.mrbb.ca/>);



Ramparts –
Mackenzie River



Oiseau Rock – Ottawa River

the Ottawa River, (www.ottawariverkeeper.ca) forming the boundary between Ontario and Quebec for much of its length, and one of the most significant rivers to the development of Canada as the nation we know today; the St. John River in New Brunswick (sjriv@nb.aibn.com); and the Red River in Manitoba (www.riverswest.ca). These rivers present a tremendous challenge, as they are major rivers which cross political jurisdictions, involve consultations with all levels of government, Aboriginal interests, public interest groups and private landowners. In meeting the challenge, the CHRS is poised to take a quantum leap in its role as Canada's only national river conservation program.

Meanwhile, work on the Coppermine River, nominated in 2002, is progressing. Many important archaeological sites, distinguished by copper artifacts, are found along the Coppermine. It was stories of these copper deposits that brought Samuel Hearne, an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, 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. Other explorers, such as Sir John Franklin, soon followed and the Coppermine became an important exploration and fur trade route. The Coppermine and its environment are essentially unchanged since the first British explorers saw it.



Rowers on St. John River



Michael Peake

Bloody Falls on the lower Coppermine River is an area of great scenic and historic interest.

Extensive consultations towards the negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA) are expected to be undertaken in 2004-2005. This IIBA will precede work on the management plan for the Coppermine to enable its designation to the System. This intensive involvement of the Nunavut Government and local people will benefit all Canadian Heritage Rivers in this new territory.

on the gifts of the river and prospered through fishing, farming and logging. Today, the river valley is a homeland to the Cowichan First Nation and a recreational treasure at the doorstep of nearby communities. A footpath along its entire length and a park along 20 km of the river allow access to the river for fishing, swimming, tubing and canoeing.

The people of this valley have benefited greatly from the gifts from the river, reaping natural wealth from its waters and the lands it flows through, living on its shores, playing in its waters, and enjoying its beauty. Today, the people of the valley are working together to give back to the river – to conserve the Cowichan.

Designation of the Cowichan River as a Canadian Heritage River is testimony to its significance as a national treasure. The commitment of local communities to conserving the river will be measured by the strength of the salmon culture.



Cowichan River



New Designations in 2003-2004:

Two rivers were designated to the program in 2003-2004, the Cowichan River in British Columbia and the Alberta Section of the Clearwater River.

Cowichan River, (Quw'utsun Stal'lo'), British Columbia (47 km)

"Land Warmed By the Sun" (translation of Coast Salish name)
Designated October, 2003

The Cowichan River on Vancouver Island flows 47 kms from mountain-ringed Cowichan Lake through forests and fields to a large ocean estuary at Cowichan Bay. When the ancestors of the Coast Salish people came here, they found a rich land nourished by a river teeming with salmon and trout, and an estuary that harboured in winter vast flocks of waterfowl. For thousands of years, this 47 km river has provided their descendents with abundant food, transportation and water. When settlers arrived in the mid-1800s, they also relied

Clearwater-Christina River, Alberta (139 km)

"Link to the North"

Designated October, 2003

Located in the boreal forest of Alberta, the Clearwater-Christina Rivers comprise 139 km of wilderness in Canada's west. The inclusion of the lower 108 km of the Clearwater and its tributary, the Christina, into the Canadian Heritage Rivers System completes the 295 km Clearwater Canadian Heritage River flowing west from its source at Lloyd Lake, Saskatchewan to its confluence with

the Athabasca at Fort McMurray, Alberta. This nationally significant canoe route served First Nation cultures dating from 6,000 years ago to fur traders in the 18th century when the river became a vital link to the north between the Churchill and Athabasca rivers.

“The valley...is about three miles in breadth, and is confined by two lofty ridges of equal height, displaying a most delightful intermixture of wood and lawn, and stretching on till the blue mist obscures the prospect. ...the inclining heights are covered with stately forests, relieved by promontories of the finest verdure, where the elk and buffalo find pasture.”

These were the words written in 1789 by Alexander Mackenzie, the first European to reach the Pacific by land, describing the view of the Clearwater from the Methye Portage, just before the trail begins its descent into its valley. Today, the elk and buffalo are gone, but the view is still the same as Mackenzie described.

Today the rivers support a diverse range of natural, cultural, recreational and commercial interests. Designation of the Clearwater-Christina rivers is a testament to all the people who worked together to make the Clearwater-Christina Canadian Heritage River a model of cooperative river management.



Clearwater-Christina River

For information on nominating and designating rivers, write the Secretariat for a copy of the brochure “Your River, Your Heritage, Your Future”, or visit the CHRS website and click on “publications”.

4th Canadian River Heritage Conference:

*Ribbons of Life:
Celebrating the Past, charting the future*

The 4th CANADIAN RIVER HERITAGE CONFERENCE



GUELPH, ONTARIO
June 6 - 9, 2004

The CHRS Secretariat continued to work with the Grand River Conservation Authority, University of Guelph, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to organize the 4th Canadian River Heritage, set to be held June 6-9. The total budget for the conference is set at \$250,000. The CHRS has contributed \$20,000. The bulk of funding is coming from private and corporate sponsorships, as well as registrations.

The conference program features keynote presentations from Robert Kennedy Jr, President of the Waterkeeper Alliance, Wade Davis, National Geographic Society Explorer-in-residence, James Raffan, Canada’s paddling raconteur, Mark Angelo, who will be presenting his “Riverworld” slide show, and Roberta Jamieson, Elected Chief of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory.

There are over 100 presentations on the program from Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. The conference will also showcase the music, art and literature inspired by Canada's rivers, including a Heritage Rivers CD by musician James Gordon, a life-size wood sculpture of a Voyageur canoe by Quebec artist Ralph Ireland, and the unveiling of a Heritage River quilt created by Judy Gascho-Jutzi, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the CHRS.

The conference is set to be a major event in the history of Canadian river conservation.



Rideau Waterway

Monitoring Canadian Heritage Rivers

The submission of the Ten-year Report for the Grand River reflects the growing recognition of monitoring CHRS rivers in a consistent, scientific, manner. Ten-Year Reports for the Seal River and Arctic Red are under way.

Significant steps towards improving the integrity of CHRS rivers, repairing mistakes of the past, or avoiding these same mistakes in the future have been taken on many rivers in the CHRS. A sampling of these include:

- ▶ Ontario and Manitoba made a big step towards attaining World Heritage status for Woodland Caribou and Atikaki provincial parks, through which the Bloodvein River runs. The joint proposal was accepted as one of eleven new sites on Canada's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites.

(Ontario Section: Doug Gilmore, (807) 727 1336; doug.gilmore@mnr.gov.on.ca)

(Manitoba section: Ken Schykulski, (204) 945-6797; kschylkusk@nr.gov.mb.ca)



Bloodvein River

- ▶ Another Canadian Heritage River in Ontario, the Rideau Waterway, was also included on Canada's tentative list. CHRS designation was a major 'stepping stone' to achieve this status. (Doug Stewart, doug.stewart@pc.gc.ca)
- ▶ On the Clearwater River in Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Environment and the Clearwater River Dene Nation sponsored Dene Elders and youth to take a 10-day canoe trip on the Clearwater. The Elders passed on their knowledge of the river and its history, and the expedition team picked up garbage left by other river users. (R. Zielke, (306) 236-7550; rzilke@serm.gov.sk.ca)
- ▶ On Nova Scotia's Shelburne River, a partnership of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Bowater Mersey Paper Company, and the Province of Nova Scotia, added more than 1,500 hectares of protected land to this wilderness river. (Peter Labor, (902) 424-2117; laborpn@gov.ns.ca)
- ▶ Up north on the South Nahanni River, a canoe trip (one of several on boreal rivers) was organized by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, to bring attention to threats to the boreal forest. The event was broadcast on the CBC science program, The Nature of Things, hosted by David Suzuki, and brought the threats to the South Nahanni posed by mining interests to the public. Negotiations are now ongoing to expand Nahanni National Park to include the entire watershed of the South Nahanni River. (Steve Catto, (867) 695-3151; steve.catto@pc.gc.ca)



- ▶ On the Detroit, the first bi-national “Conservation Vision for the Lower Detroit Ecosystem”, presented a bi-national conservation vision to protect the river’s remaining wetlands, and to rehabilitate degraded shorelines and wetlands, clean up contaminated sites, and protect fish and wildlife. This past year, 450 metres of shoreline were rehabilitated and fish habitat enhanced. It may not seem like much, but the shorelines along many of our rivers were incrementally degraded (over 95% of the wetlands along the Detroit have been lost to development), and by incrementally rehabilitating them, the ecological integrity of the river will eventually be enhanced and restored. Trails were built along the Detroit River, so residents can appreciate the newly rehabilitated shoreline. (Danielle Breault, (519) 776-5209; erca@wincom.net)
 - ▶ On the Grand, its first watershed report card was tabled at the Grand River Watershed Forum. It reported on water quality, water quantity and land resources. The report card was distributed to 200,000 homes within the watershed as a newspaper insert. (Barbe Veale, (519) 621-2761; bveale@grandriver.on.ca)
 - ▶ Sometimes, small details can have large incremental effects on river ecosystems and on the relationship between the river and the people who live on it. For example, on the Athabasca River in Jasper National Park, all culverts are being evaluated to determine their effect on spawning of native fish species, and how each can be modified to allow fish to freely pass through them. (Ward Hughson, (780) 852-6205; ward.hughson@pc.gc.ca)
 - ▶ On the Humber, more than 2,000 volunteers spent thousands of hours planting trees, building trails, installing nesting structures and hybernacula, and cleaning up garbage all along the watershed. For the second year in a row, the Humber River was a finalist of the Thiess International Riverprize, which the Grand River won in 2000.
 - ▶ Three new interpretive centres have been established on Canadian Heritage Rivers. The French River Visitor Centre, which will interpret the natural and cultural heritage of the French River, is expected to open in 2004. (Leslie Joynt, (705) 287-2891; leslie.joynt@mnr.gov.on.ca)
 - ▶ On the St. Croix, the Downeast Heritage Centre also opened in 2004 and will interpret the natural and cultural heritage of the St. Croix region on both sides of the International Boundary. (Lee Sochasky, (506) 466-7550; stcroix@nbnet.nb.ca)
 - ▶ A new interpretive centre on the Hillsborough River, the Hillsborough River Eco-Centre, opened this year, at the head of the river in Mt. Stewart, during the annual Heritage River Festival in September. (Anna Duffy, (902) 676-2708; burkhorn@isn.net)
 - ▶ The first photographic book on the Thames River, “the Thames: a Pictorial Journey” was launched in the spring of 2003 by London photographer Richard Bain. Wouldn’t it be great to have such a book on each Canadian Heritage River?
- 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.



Athabasca River

For More Information:

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

Canadian Heritage Rivers Secretariat
Parks Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M5

Tel: (819) 997-4930

Fax: (819) 953-4704

Email: max.finkelstein@pc.gc.ca

Website: www.chrs.ca