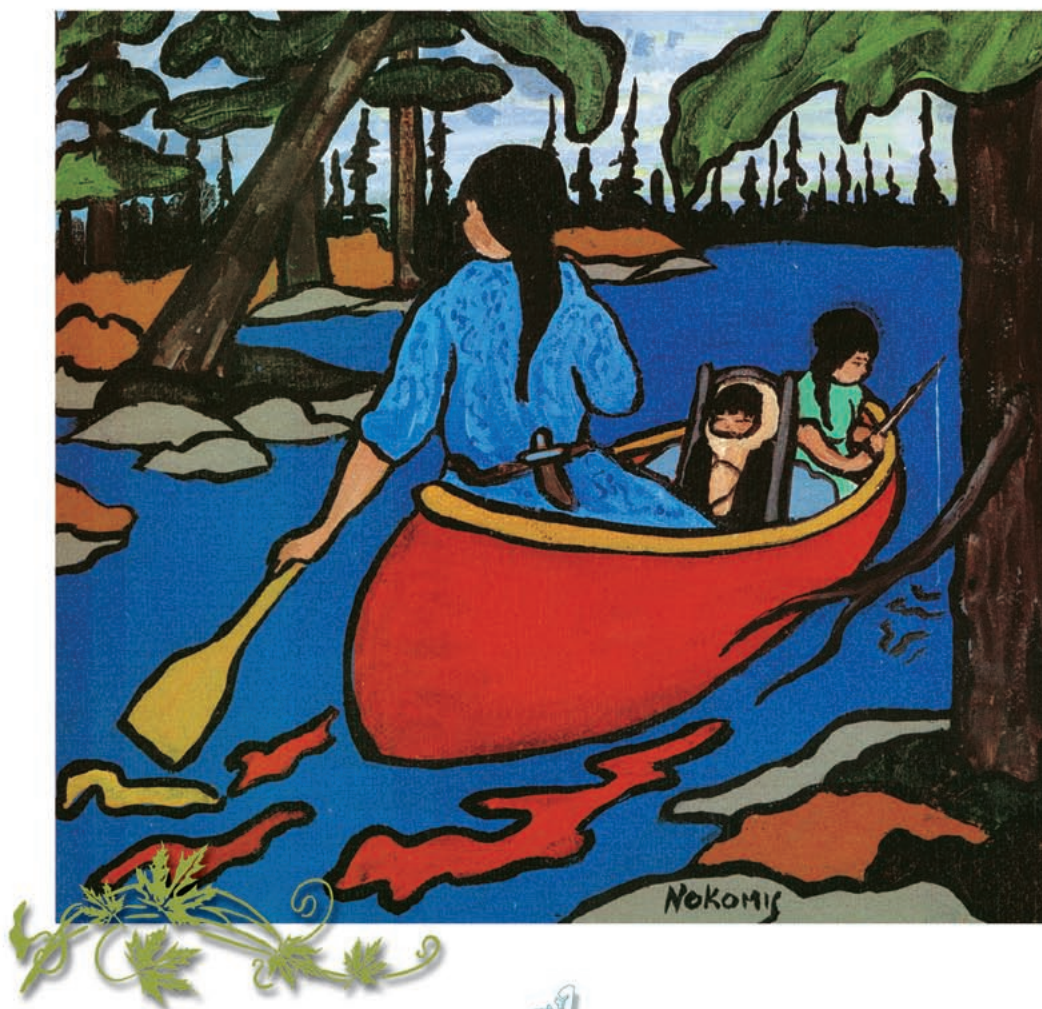


The Canadian Heritage Rivers System



ANNUAL REPORT
2006-2007

April, 2007

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-third Annual Report on the Canadian
Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) for the fiscal
year 2006-2007.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik Val', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Erik Val
Chairperson
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board
2006-2007



© Minister of Public Works
and Government Services Canada, 2007

Published under the authority
of the Minister of the Department of Environment
on behalf of the provincial and territorial Ministers
responsible for parks and tourism.

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**Cover Art: ‘Going to the Dentist’
Ojibway Artist – Nokomis
The Story Behind the Painting:**

I was born in the bush north of Lake Superior more than 70 years ago. My family lived a traditional hunting, fishing, trapping lifestyle and because we never lived on a Reserve the spiritual traditions were also part of our lives. At that time we didn’t call ourselves Ojibwa. We knew that we were Anishinaabe – the people.



If you lived in the bush years ago, going to the dentist wasn’t practical. But in 1939 the Ontario government set up a mobile dental service in a railway car that was pulled from town to town in the northwestern part of the province. It served those railroad communities that weren’t connected to the road system. The dentist lived with his family in the front of the car. The back end of the railroad car had been converted to a complete, albeit tiny, dentist’s office. It had a chair, a drill, and all the little weapons neatly arranged in drawers.

My mother had never been to a dentist, but someone told her that this man was like “a doctor for the teeth” and that it was GOOD to take children to see him. She was a good mother so naturally I was going to the dentist.

I wasn’t yet going to school which meant that my Dad was still sticking to his rule about not living too close to a town. His idea was that if he or Mom could paddle to the village in a single day that was close enough. We lived about twenty five miles north of the railway tracks along a canoe route that followed the shores of three small lakes. Mom could make it to town before dark, even with me in the canoe.

But going to the dentist this time took twice as long as normal. It took two days of paddling, and these were long summer days. In the evening, before we took to shore I dropped a short line into the water and caught a fish for supper. At night we propped the canoe on it’s side and used it as a shelter.

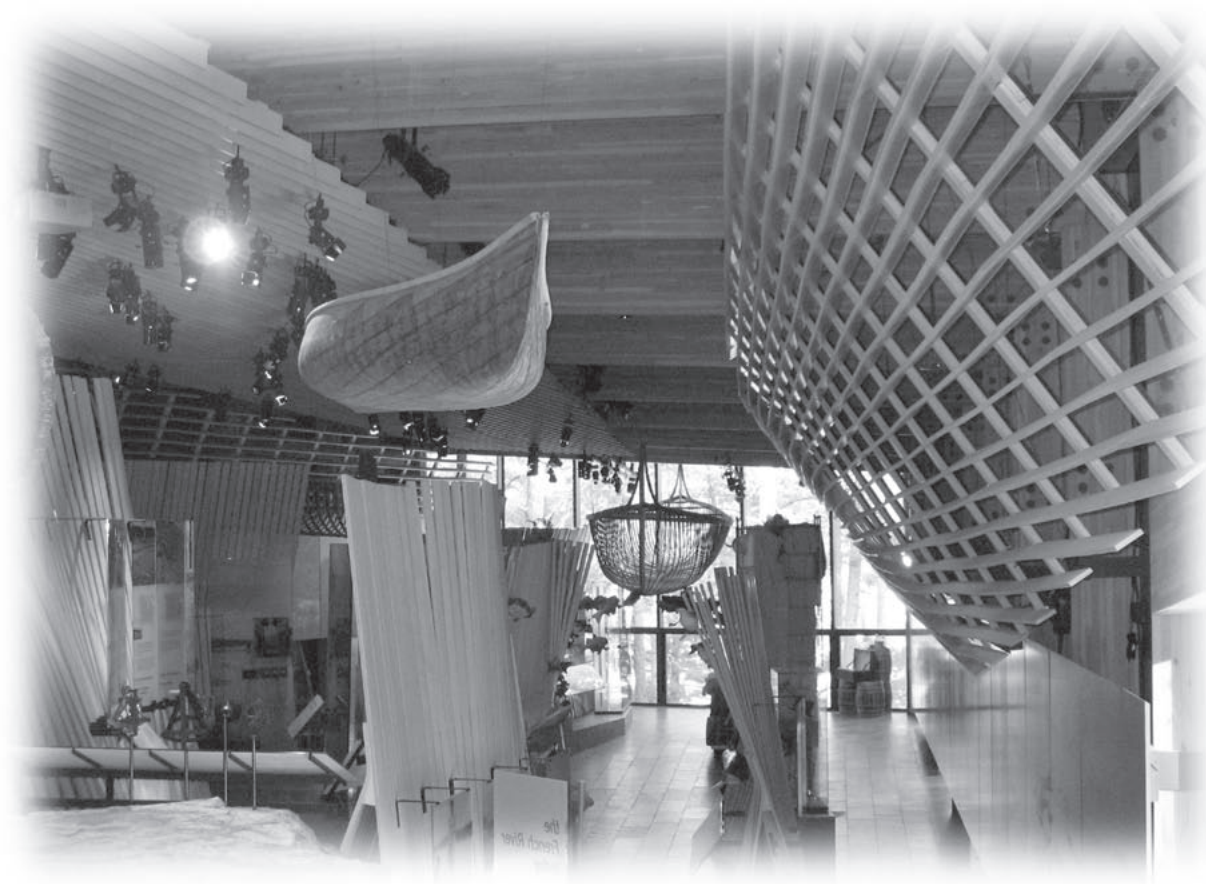
When we finally reached town and saw the dentist it turned out that neither my mother nor I had anything wrong with our teeth. It had all been for nothing.

So we picked up a few supplies from the store and paddled home. But, it took another two days to get home instead of the usual day. It was a four day dentist trip.

The reason it took so long was that my brother had been born the day before we left. He was thirteen hours old when we’d launched at dawn that first morning. Times were different then.

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Parks Ontario

The French River Visitor Centre, opened in 2007 at the junction of the French River and Highway #69. The French was the first river in Canada designated as a Canadian Heritage River.

Chairperson's Report

Paddling Upstream

From my office in Whitehorse, I gaze out upon the Yukon River, flowing steady, clear and green. In the summer, many adventurers set off in canoes or rafts heading easily downstream towards Dawson City. Of course, over a century ago in the days of the Gold Rush, when the river was the main transportation route, people went both upstream and downstream. The times were different then.

2006-2007 was a year of past reflections and future directions for the Canadian Heritage Rivers System program.

The Ten-Year Strategic Plan for the program came to an end with many of the goals having been met. In 2007, the CHRS is a river conservation program that is nationally valued and internationally recognized. With 39 rivers in the system, the program reflects to a large extent the significance of rivers in the identity and history of Canada, although some of the most important rivers of Canada are still missing from the system. The program has made great strides in the past decade to ensure that the natural, cultural, and recreational values for which rivers are designated are wisely managed.

Through the year, much has been done by the Board and the Technical Planning Committee to develop a new Ten-Year Strategic Plan. The new plan represents a renewed and strengthened commitment to Canada's River Heritage, setting forth the vision and over-arching priorities for the program, and fostering an ethic of caring for our rivers. We see the CHRS growing as a model of river stewardship that can be shared with river communities around the world. We also envision the CHRS engaging society in valuing and sustaining rivers and their communities.



Erik Val

This plan is not simply a working document for the Board or the program's jurisdictional members. The plan is designed to serve as a catalyst for governments, communities, and local people to take action for their river, their community, and their lives. This plan is written to engage all Canadians in caring for our rivers.

Clear communications are essential to building awareness of the CHRS as a model for river management and sustainable living. We are extending our efforts to spread the word about the CHRS and its benefits locally, nationally and internationally. As we continue to raise the profile of the CHRS and build on its many achievements, we are also working to facilitate a network of "river-people" who are committed to conserving Canadian rivers and their communities. This new strategic plan represents a commitment to work together to fulfill a renewed vision for the Canadian Heritage Rivers program. The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board invites all Canadians to join us at the headwaters of this ongoing journey to build the best river conservation program in the world.

Looking back at the highlights of the year, the work done to organize the Fifth Canadian River Heritage Conference to be held in June in Winnipeg promises to be a momentous confluence of ideas, people and aspirations for the future of river conservation, the values of ecosystem services provided by rivers, working with rivers instead of against them, international cooperation for watershed management, and community and public involvement in river management.

The event will be highlighted by the ceremony designating the Red River, with its mix of cultures and histories.

The conference will show that, as Canadians, we value land, wildlife, and water close to our hearts, and to our identity as a people and a nation. This is the best measure we can take as a program, and as a people to protect our rivers.

Looking further ahead, plans are evolving to host the 6th Canadian Heritage River Conference, to be held in the City of Ottawa, a stones throw from the Ottawa River and the Parliament Buildings, in 2009, on the 25th anniversary of the founding of the CHRS. This promises to be an outstanding international event and I would encourage anyone involved in rivers to attend.

My tenure as Chair has given me a special opportunity to take the helm of the CHRS, to steer it on its journey to becoming a river conservation program that represents the values, that we, as Canadians, hold most dear to our hearts. It has been an honour to have had this opportunity. ❁



Erik Val
Chairperson
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board
2006-2007



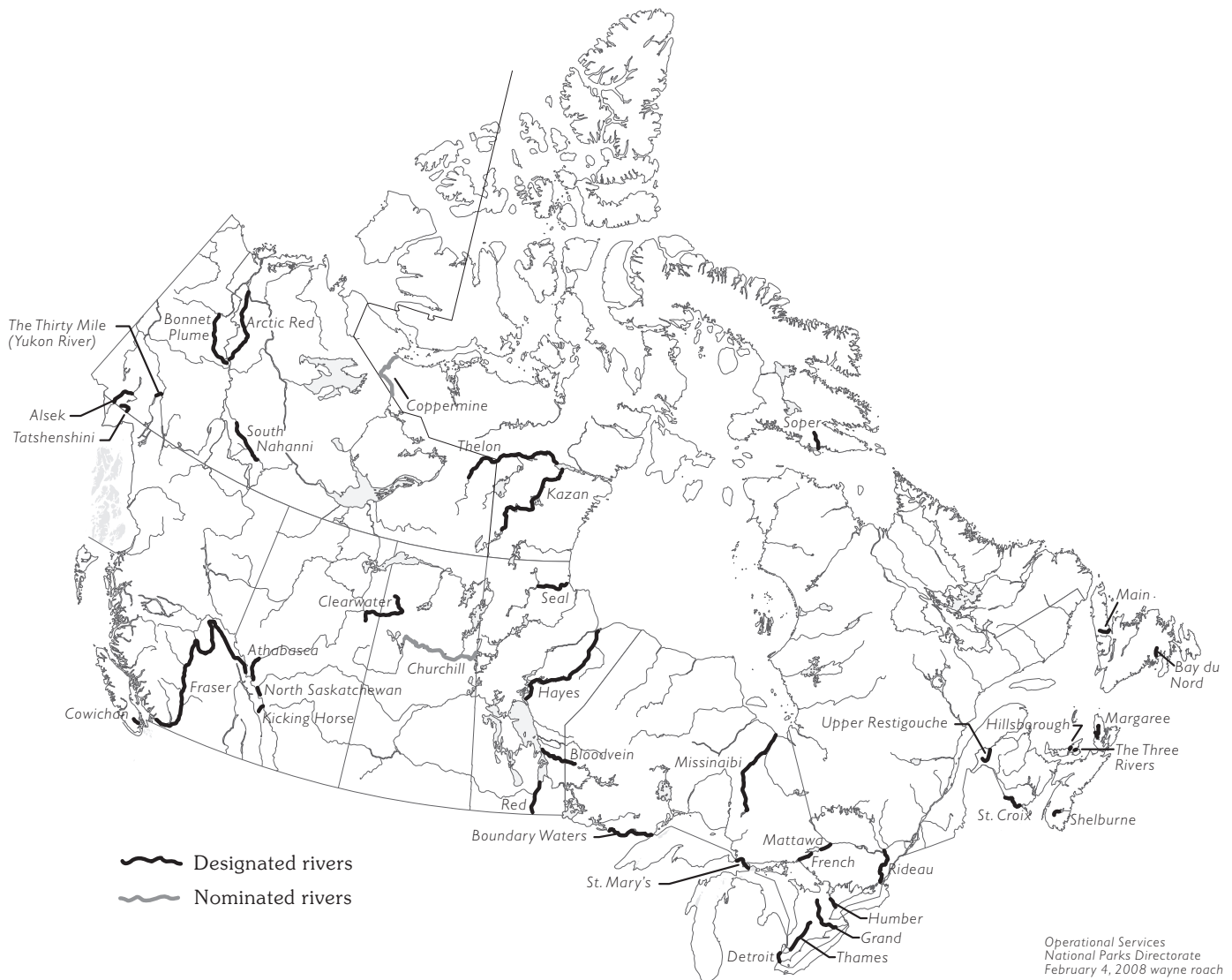
Parks Canada

The Klondike Gold Rush on the Yukon River, 1898

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 federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada. 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 9,969 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 (Park1)	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
Red River	Manitoba	May 2007	175
TOTAL			9032

Nominated Rivers

River	Location Province/Territory (Park)	Anticipated Designation Date	Length (in km)
Churchill	Saskatchewan	May 2006	487
Coppermine	Nunavut	May 2006	450
TOTAL			937

TOTAL km of NOMINATED and DESIGNATED RIVERS

9969

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 New CHRS Strategic Plan: Our Commitment to Canada's River Heritage

Vision

We envision a system of Canadian Heritage Rivers that serves as a model of stewardship. One that engages society in valuing the heritage of rivers and river communities as essential to identity, health and quality of life.

2006-2007 was a year of transition from the 1996-2006 Strategic Plan to the new ten-year Strategic plan. The new plan, which will be implemented on April 1, 2008.


The Canadian Heritage Rivers System first ten year strategic plan expired in 2007. Much of the focus of the Board's work over the past year has been on developing a new ten year strategic plan for 2008-2018. A draft of the new CHRS strategic plan will be shared with stakeholders and the public over the summer of 2007. The plan will then be finalized and presented for the approval of Ministers responsible for the CHRS at their meeting in September, 2007. Once approved by Ministers, the plan will then go forward for implementation on April 1, 2008.

The new plan puts forth four key priorities:

1. Build a comprehensive and representative system that recognizes Canada's river heritage.
2. Conserve the natural, cultural and recreational values and integrity of designated Canadian Heritage Rivers.
3. Engage communities and partners to maximize the full range of benefits associated with the Canadian Heritage Rivers Program.
4. Foster Excellence in river management.

Under these priorities, 19 specific outcomes are identified. These outcomes will, ultimately, be the measure of success of the strategic plan.

Progress towards the realization of the goals and outcomes of the strategic plan will be reported in each CHRS Annual Report commencing in the 2008-2009 edition.



Major Accomplishments for 2006-07

Completing the System

The Canadian Heritage River Board recommended approval of the nomination of the Ottawa River in May, 2006. The nomination has yet to be approved by the Federal Minister of the Environment. The nomination of the North Saskatchewan River, also recommended by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board in May, 2006, is pending approval by the Alberta Minister.

Work is nearly finalized for the nomination of the Adams River in British Columbia, and it is expected the nomination will be tabled at the 2008 board meeting.

Work is on-going for the nomination of the Mackenzie River and the St. John River.

River Monitoring

Ten Year Monitoring Reports were produced for the Seal River, Manitoba, and The Boundary Waters-Voyageur Waterway, Ontario. These reports describe any changes to the state of the river since its entry into the CHRS, and assess the degree to which management of the river adheres to the stated objectives of the management Plan. The reports conclude both these rivers continue to maintain the qualities and values for which they were nominated. The Boundary Waters-Voyageur Waterway was one of the first rivers nominated to the CHRS (1986). This is the second ten-year Monitoring Report for this river.



Communications

A partnership was forged with the Canadian Wildlife Federation to work collaboratively for the promotion of river and ocean conservation, and more specifically, for the promotion and celebration of Canadian Rivers Day (second Sunday in June). Through this partnership, Rivers to Oceans Week was created from June 8-14th. The first Rivers to Oceans Week will celebrate our northern waters during International Polar Year. Rivers to Oceans Week will always incorporate Canadian Rivers Day, which will be highlighted in educational materials produced by CWF for the promotion and celebration of Rivers to Oceans Week.

Through spearheading the national promotion of Canadian Rivers Day, informal links were forged with many local conservation organizations and local community leaders. Locally in Ottawa/Gatineau, CHRS partnered with the Ottawa Riverkeeper, other local conservation groups, local outfitters, and local canoe clubs, to organize a paddling event that highlighted natural and cultural features and issues on the reach of the Ottawa River within the city boundaries. Over one hundred and fifty people participated in this event.

A similar event is planned for celebrating Canadian Rivers Day 2007 in the National Capital Region, and it is expected to attract more than 300 participants.



The Canada's River Heritage Conferences are an excellent means of encouraging partnerships with groups that support responsible river management. The 2007 conference to be held in Winnipeg in June, 2007, has been a collaborative effort of Rivers West, the Government of Manitoba and the CHRS.

The CHRS continued its partnership with paddling Canada (formerly known as the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association) with the production of the 2007 Calendar. This edition of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Calendar was the most successful to date. The 2007 Canadian Heritage Rivers calendar was distributed to the CHRS Board and Secretariat as well as members of Paddle Canada (formerly the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association). It was also available through individual sales and promotional events. Four thousand copies of the calendar were printed and to-date 3,925 copies of the calendar have been distributed throughout the country. Profits from the sale of the calendar are used to support national river conservation projects sponsored by Paddle Canada. The 2007 edition was so successful that the print run for the 2008 edition was increased to 5,000. 🍃



Max Finkelstein



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 (2006-2007)

The Honourable John Baird
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

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 Hector Goudreau
Minister of Tourism, Parks,
Recreation and Culture
Government of Alberta

The Honourable Barry Penner
Minister of Environment
Government of British Columbia

The Honourable Dennis Fentie
Minister of Environment
Government of Yukon

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 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 participating 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 2007-2008 Chairperson will be Sian French, Director, Parks and Natural Areas Branch, Newfoundland. 🍁

CHRS Board of Directors 2006-2007

Erik Val, 2006-2007
Chairperson (Yukon)

Sian french (Newfoundland & Labrador)

David Boyce (Prince Edward island)

John Leduc (Nova Scotia)

Harry Collins (New Brunswick)

Adair Ireland-Smith (Ontario)

Barry Bentham (Manitoba)

Ken Lozinsky (Saskatchewan)

John Kristensen (Alberta)

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



Ontario Parks

The newly opened French River Visitor Centre.



Rivernews

Across Canada, exciting developments are taking place on Canadian Heritage Rivers. Up north, the commitment by the federal government to expand Nahanni National Park by up to eight times in area is good news for the South Nahanni River. Final boundaries have yet to be decided upon, but the new boundaries will likely encompass virtually all of the watershed of the South Nahanni River. On the Alsek River in the Yukon, one of the premier wilderness rivers in the world, a policy of designated campsite use, campsite closures, removal of human waste, pre-trip bear safety information packages, every second day trip departure schedules and other recreational use management strategies appear to have been effective in minimizing the potential for bear human interactions, increasing bear awareness and public safety, and maximising resource protection. The Alsek was featured at the Nordic Countries World Heritage Site meeting in Narvik, Norway as a successful model of interagency cooperation in river management.

Way down south on the Humber River, the new Ontario Regulation 166/06 will protect an additional 12,000 hectares of valleys, shorelines and wetlands in the Humber by regulating development, interference with wetlands and alterations to shorelines and watercourses. Watershed Report cards were issued for the Humber, Thames and Grand Canadian Heritage Rivers, and although there are the usual problems, of rivers in urban and agricultural areas, the good news is that the overall ecological health of these rivers is improving.

On the Rideau River, the "City Stream Watch Program" continues to grow, and is a very successful model. It uses trained citizen scientists to do Macro Stream Assessments on urban streams and creeks. Over the past five years, a total to 26 streams in the Rideau's watershed within the boundaries of the City of Ottawa have been monitored. This information is very valuable to city and agency planners because it is often the first and only survey information available on streams that are under heavy pressure from urban development and abuse.

Over 100 volunteers, including staff from the CRHS Secretariat, came forward and gave their time, energy and community spirit to take part. This is a great way to get to know your watershed in a very intimate way, up to your chest in muddy water (usually just over your waders).

Sections of the Boundary Waters-Voyageur Waterway have been officially designated as part of the Trans-Canada Trail. This is the first time the Trans-Canada Trail organization has embraced the canoe routes of this country as a legitimate aspect of the Canada-wide trail system. This move would appear to open up the door to designating the trans-Canada canoe route as part of the trans-Canada trail system. There will be lots of action on the water trails across Canada in the summers of 2007 and 2008. Plans have been laid for the re-enactment of David Thompson's historic voyages across the Rockies and from Rocky Mountain House, Alberta to Thunder Bay at the west end of lake Superior. As well, plans have been set for a four hundredth anniversary voyage on Samuel de Champlain's historic route from Quebec City to Georgian Bay. Both these routes incorporate several Canadian Heritage Rivers.

On the first Canadian Heritage River, the French, The French River Visitor Centre opened. The new Ontario Parks facility has won a number of awards and is currently being reviewed as a candidate to represent Canada at the world renowned Venice Biennale in 2009. It is also under consideration by the Governor General's Medal programme. The centre is a celebration of the rich cultural and natural history of the French River.

Exhibits provide a rich array of historical maps and images, as well as detailed reproductions of historical exploration and fur trade artifacts. There are also opportunities to hear observations and musings from the journals of Samuel de Champlain, Jean Nicolet and other historical characters as they paddled the French River. The banquet of audio stories also offers teachings, local history and river



stewardship perspectives told by neighbouring First Nation community members, providing an opportunity for visitors to learn of First Nation and Aboriginal heritage from both historical and contemporary perspectives.

French River Visitor Centre rekindles the traditional role of the French River as a gathering place, where people come together to exchange skills, knowledge and ideas in a spirit of friendship and cooperation.

Down east in Atlantic Canada, 2007 brought exciting news for Nova Scotia's Shelburne Heritage River. In July, government announced the protection of more than 10,000 hectares of land that it recently bought from Bowater Mersey Paper Company Limited. One of the highlights of this announcement is the new Shelburne River Wilderness Area. Covering more than 1500 hectares, this new wilderness area will protect 40 km of river frontage and three lakes. This beautiful and historic stretch of river is also part of the famous "Tent Dwellers route", named for the 1908 book of that name by Albert Bigelow Paine that chronicles a turn of the century canoe journey of guides and sports through this region. In 2008 southwestern Nova Scotia will be hosting the Tent Dwellers Centennial Festival with special events running from early Spring to late Fall. For more information, visit <http://www.friendsofkeji.ns.ca/TentDwellers2008.htm>.

Once again, the CHRS took the lead in promoting Canadian Rivers Day. Building on the work of the previous year, web pages were developed for the CRHS web site on Canadian Rivers Day. Locally, in Ottawa/Gatineau, the CHRS partnered with the Ottawa Riverkeeper to organize a Rivers Day community paddle on the mighty Ottawa River through the heart of the national capital. Despite the stormy weather, over 150 paddlers participated. Plans are in place for a bigger event in 2007.

Across Canada, thousands of Canadians celebrated their rivers through interpretive river walks, river film festivals, paddle-a-thons, river 'floats', Voyageur canoe rides, paddling lessons, stream and river clean-ups, stream bio-inventories, river conferences and talks, and even a special "mass" in honour of Canada's Rivers.

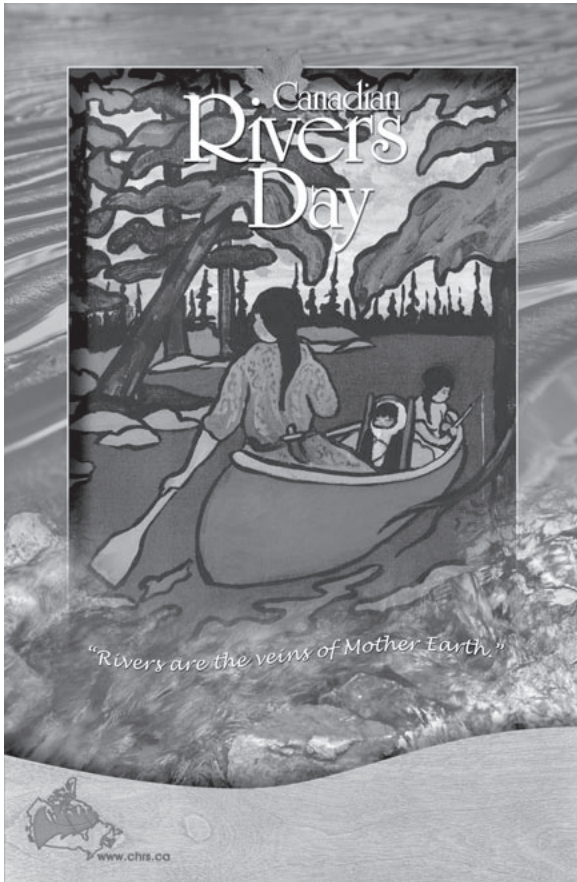


Canadian Press

The CHRS Secretariat is working hard for the nomination of the Senators to the Stanley Cup. Maybe 2008?



Once again, the CHRS published a Canadian Rivers Day poster, distributed free to interested groups and individuals across Canada. Over 5,000 copies were mailed out.



This is a work in progress. For the gallery to be successful, we need participation and feedback. We invite you to submit river images that you feel deserve a place in the CHRS photo gallery and to alert us to images that are mis-labelled and otherwise inaccurately described.



Rivers Downstream

Progress is being made towards nominating Canada's biggest river, the Mackenzie, to the CHRS. The Steering Committee for the Nomination of the Mackenzie River to the CHRS continues to oversee the compilation and synthesis of heritage resource information, focusing primarily on the river's natural and cultural values within the Deh Cho, Sahtu and Gwich'in territories, including the cultural history of the Metis. This information will eventually be compiled into a Background Study, the first major step on the course towards nomination.



Max Finkelstein



Plans are in place to promote Canadian Rivers Day 2007, building on the work of two extremely talented Young Canada Works students, Saema Nasir (2005) and Jen Katan (2006), we look forward to a bigger and better Canadian Rivers Day in 2007.

The CHRS website continues to grow. Most recent reports indicate an average of 400,000 'hits' a month. The most recent addition to the site, and one that is sure to increase the use of the site, is the Photo Gallery. The web site was initially built thanks to the work of Ryan Hardy, a student intern. Another student intern, Meagan Roberts, is continuing the good work of Ryan. There are currently close to 1000 images on the site. The Photo Gallery is intended as a working tool. It provides information required to use any image in the gallery for publication, such as copyright, where the original can be obtained, location, and other data fields.

On the other side of the country in Nova Scotia, work is progressing towards a background study of the Shubenacadie River. Under the direction of the Protected Areas Branch, Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour, a two-year project collecting and assessing information on the heritage values of the Shubenacadie River is nearing completion. The report will serve as a springboard for the further engagement of local stakeholders in seeking the river's nomination and designation to the CHRS.

Nominations and Designations

Although no rivers were nominated to the CHRS in 2006/07, two of Canada's most outstanding rivers are almost to this point in the CHRS nomination process.

Adams River (BC)

Further to a CHRS background study completed in March 2006, a draft Nomination Document for the Adams River as a Canadian Heritage River has been prepared for the B.C. Ministry of Environment. The proposed nomination, based upon the river's outstanding natural, cultural and recreational values, showcases the Adams River and Adams Lake as an integral component of B.C.'s rich river heritage. Further stakeholder consultations are being carried out in order to finalize the nomination. The Adams River is already designated to the British Columbia Heritage Rivers Program. The spectacle of the lower Adams River flashing red with the bodies of sockeye salmon is one which stays in the memory of anyone who has witnessed it. Here at their spawning grounds, the exhausted salmon complete the journey which they began 490 kilometres downstream at the Pacific Ocean. Their bodies already starting to decompose, the salmon fight their way upstream to the gravelled beds of the river where they will spawn and die. The Adams River is one of the few accessible places in the world where this circle of death and life can be witnessed. People often stand spellbound in silent awe.

It is for its sockeye salmon run that the Adams River is most celebrated. Because of it, the river has been recognized as one of the "World's Greatest Natural Areas" by the International Union for the

Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas. In 1995 the main stem of the Adams River was nominated as one of a number of inaugural Heritage Rivers by the then newly established BC Heritage Rivers Board. The awe-inspiring sockeye salmon run has stimulated books, films, videos and art.

St. John River (NB)

A draft nomination document for New Brunswick's St. John River has been prepared by the St. John River Society. Emphasizing the river's outstanding cultural heritage values, the nomination is expected to be finalized and tabled with the CHRS Board in June 2008. The lovely and languid St. John rises in the woods of northern Maine. It enters New Brunswick at the lower tip of the Madawaska County panhandle, winds through wild country to Edmundston, then curves southeasterly through rolling farmland that produces one-fifth of all the potatoes grown in Canada. It widens at Fredericton to nearly half a mile and proceeds deep and majestic past islands of silver maples toward the city of Saint John. The St. John has a surprise ending: The Reversing Falls. When the tide is low the river goes down a gorge in a drop of 17 feet into the Fundy. But when the Fundy lifts, salt water surges into the gorge and floods right into the river itself, and at high tide there is enough depth to float a sizable tanker.

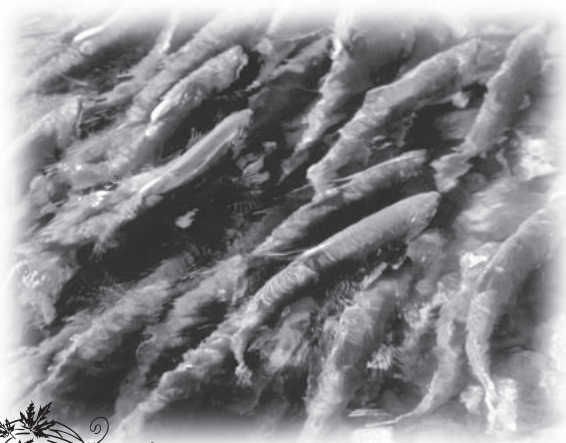
New Designations

Red River (MB)

A plan has been developed for managing Manitoba's Red River as a Canadian Heritage River. Rivers West, an NGO dedicated to promoting and conserving the Red River's many unique attractions, will play a major role in overseeing the plan's implementation. A designation ceremony for the Red will take place appropriately, at the fifth Canada's River Heritage Conference, Current Perspectives, in Winnipeg on Canadian Rivers Day.

Coppermine River (NU)

Work has commenced on the preparation of a management plan for the Coppermine River in Nunavut to secure the river's formal designation to the CHRS. Nominated in 2005 for its outstanding natural, cultural and recreational values, the Coppermine River is a place of rich and continuous history for the Dene and Inuit culture and their ancestors.



BC Parks

Sockeye Salmon in the Adams rivers

Ten Year Monitoring Reports

Seal River (MB)

A report was prepared for Manitoba Conservation, Parks and Natural Areas, describing the state of the river since its entry into the CHRS and assessing the degree to which management of the river adheres to stated objectives. The report determined that the majority of the Seal River heritage values remain intact and essentially unchanged since its designation in 1992.

Boundary Waters – Voyageur Waterway (ON)

Nominated to the CHRS in 1986 for its outstanding natural, cultural and recreational values, the Boundary Waters – Voyageur Waterway in Ontario has had its values and management actions reassessed through a second 10-Year Monitoring Report (1996-2006) prepared by Ontario Parks. The report finds that the waterway continues to maintain the excellent qualities and values for which it was originally nominated.

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

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

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Making life-long connections to the river.

Max Finkelstein