

The
Canadian
Heritage Rivers
System



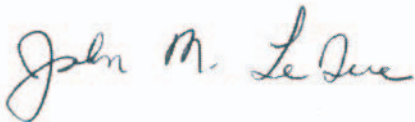
ANNUAL REPORT
2008-2009

April, 2009

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-fourth Annual Report on the Canadian
Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) for the fiscal
year 2008-2009.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John M. Leduc". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'L'.

John Leduc
Chairperson
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board
2008-2009



© Minister of Public Works
and Government Services Canada, 2009

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

Ottawa, 2009

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Art Gallery of Ontario

**Cover Art: *The Canoe*
Tom Thomson, 1912
*Group of Seven***

The story of the *Group of Seven* Artists began in the early 1900s when several Canadian Artists began noticing a similarity in style. Canadian Painters Tom Thomson, J.E.H. MacDonald, Arthur Lismer, Frederick Varley, Frank Johnston and Franklin Carmichael were often believed to have socialized together through common interests and mutual employment. One particular venue, the Arts and Letters Club in Toronto, served as a common meeting place for the artists.

In 1920, the group put on their first exhibit and formally called themselves the *Group of Seven*. The artists included were J.E.H. MacDonald, Franklin Carmichael, Frank Johnston, Arthur Lismer, Lawren S. Harris, Frederick Varley and A.Y. Jackson. The Group’s early paintings, with bright colours and bold forms, owed much to Post-Impressionism, while portraying the Canadian landscape in a unique way.

The Group’s final joint exhibition was in December 1931. In their wake rose a new group called the *Canadian Group of Painters*, of which *Group of Seven* members included painters Harris, Casson, Lismer, Jackson, and Carmichael. The C.G.P. held their first formal exhibit in November 1933. The *Canadian Group of Painters* are historically recognized as having a significant impact on the Canadian Art movement, forever changing its style and spirit, as did the *Group of Seven*.

Tom Thomson lived from 1877-1917. He died at one of the places he loved most, Canoe Lake near Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario. His death occurred under “suspicious” circumstances. Although he died before the Group formally formed, he is almost always included as a member of the *Group of Seven*.

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Parks Canada

Ottawa River, Ontario. Nominated as a Candidate Canadian Heritage River in May 2008.

Chairperson's Report



John Leduc

I am writing this report from my new home in rural Nova Scotia overlooking 10 acres along the beautiful Annapolis River. I have come here to live in retirement after 31 years in the Nova Scotia government with the Protected Areas and Provincial Parks Branch. For much of my career, I was involved with the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) as a planner, manager and Board member. As it turned out, I was most fortunate to have served as Board Chair during my last year of public service.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) celebrated its 25th anniversary in January, 2009. Covering almost 11,000 kilometres in 41 heritage rivers, the Canadian Heritage Rivers System has matured into a valued, nation-wide program, which is recognized around the world as a model of river conservation and community engagement. Canadian Heritage Rivers include a myriad of renowned national waterscapes, magnificent cultural treasures and deeply entrenched societal icons that affect how we view the world and ourselves.

This past year has added to this legacy of growth and achievement. Two major rivers, the Ottawa River in Ontario and the St. John River in New Brunswick were formally nominated to the System. Both of these historic rivers played a pivotal role in the exploration and development of Canada. Background study work was also initiated on several rivers which may be nominated in the future including the Upper St. Lawrence River, Ontario, the South Saskatchewan River, Saskatchewan and the Shubenacadie River, Nova Scotia. In addition, a study has commenced to help define what a representative and comprehensive national system of heritage rivers would look like. This will help the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board identify "gaps" in the system and strategically position the program for future growth. 2009 marked the completion of Year 1 of the new CHRS Strategic Plan which was approved by Parks Ministers in September, 2007. Many of the accomplishments outlined in the strategic plan are highlighted throughout this annual report.

One of the most important initiatives for river conservation in Canada is work currently being undertaken by the Quebec Labrador Foundation (QLF) and river champion organizations across Canada to establish a Rivers Canada

Foundation. This Foundation would be a grant-making organization that will provide financial support to local communities and organizations in their efforts to conserve and provide public benefits related to all of Canada's rivers. A business case for the Foundation has been completed and further work is being undertaken by QLF on the governance of this Foundation. Individual agencies on the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board partly funded the business case in conjunction with NGO's and the private sector.

Much work was undertaken over the year on the organization of the Sixth Canadian River Heritage Conference which will be held in June, 2009. Hosted by Parks Canada and various partners, the conference will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the CHRS. This flagship conference will showcase successes, innovations, needs and challenges in river conservation, as well as management, restoration, education, tourism, recreation and community leadership. Highlights of the conference will be posted on the CHRS website at www.chrs.ca

I would like to thank all of my friends on the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board and planners and managers from across the country. It truly has been a pleasure and privilege to have worked with you. Your enthusiasm, hard work and dedication to conserving Canada's rivers have been inspiring.

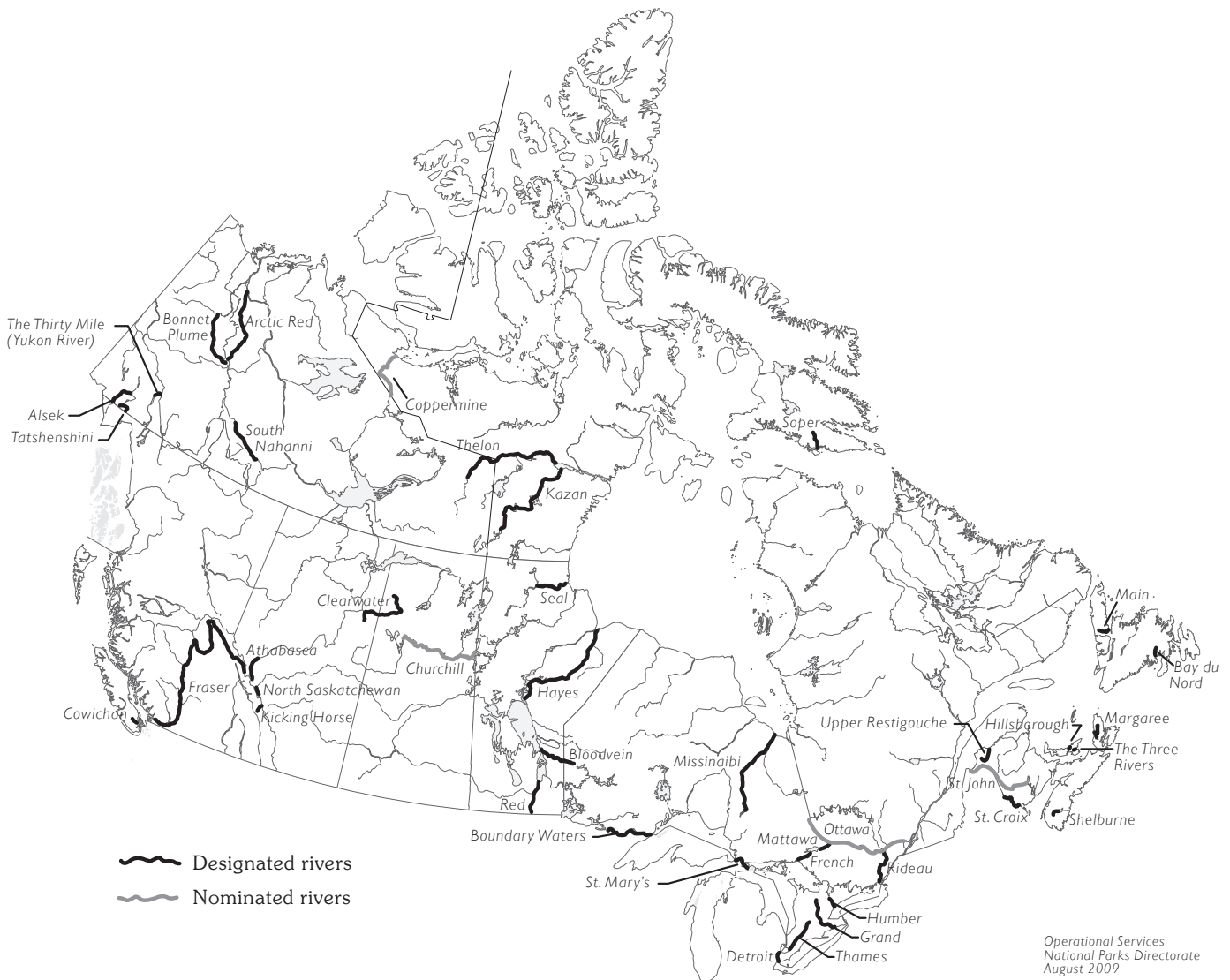
Thank you all – and keep your paddle in the water. 🍃

John Leduc
Chair (2008-2009)
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board

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.

Forty-one rivers have been nominated to the CHRS, totalling almost 11,000 kms. Thirty-seven of these have been designated, meaning 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/Middle Falls 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)	Possible Designation Date	Length (in km)
Coppermine	Nunavut	2010	450
Ottawa	Ontario	2010	590
St. John	New Brunswick	2012	400
Churchill	Saskatchewan	2014	487
TOTAL			1927

TOTAL km of NOMINATED and DESIGNATED RIVERS 10959

1. PP denotes provincial parks;
NP denotes national parks;
PWP denotes provincial wilderness park.
2. Clearwater River was nominated in two sections 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.

On September 11, 2007 in Winnipeg, the 10-year CHRS Strategic Plan was approved at the Canadian Parks Council meeting of Ministers. This 10-year plan was implemented on April 1, 2008 and will be in place until March 31, 2018.

The new plan put 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.

For each of the four priorities, a major goal has been identified that is to be completed by 2018:

1. There will be a comprehensive system of Canadian Heritage Rivers representing the full range of natural, cultural and recreational values of importance to Canadians.
2. All designated rivers will be monitored and managed in an active and effective manner.
3. The Canadian Heritage Rivers System will be supported by a range of formal and informal partnerships that advance the CHRS program and deliver broad environmental and societal benefits associated with responsible river management.
4. The CHRS will be playing a significant role in promoting and supporting the effective management of all rivers as an essential component of sustainable living.



Major Accomplishments for 2008-2009

Rivers Canada Foundation:

In the face of development, climate change and fragmented governance, freshwater conservation is one of the most vexing and pressing environmental issues of our time. Despite a growing need, very few granting programs currently support river stewardship in Canada.

To fill this gap, champions of river conservation across Canada have recommended the creation of a national granting organization called the Rivers Canada Foundation (RCF). The initiative to create the RCF is a grassroots, citizen-led undertaking. The proposed RCF would present an excellent opportunity for increasing public participation by actively engaging local communities in on-the-ground projects and by broadening the extent of organizations currently involved in river conservation. Citizens would be empowered to become leaders in support of local river conservation projects, while working in partnership with all levels of government, the private sector, First Nations, corporations and non-government organizations (NGOs).

The CHRS is currently working closely with the Quebec Labrador Foundation, a long-term champion/supporter of the CHRS, who has assumed the leadership role in creating this new Foundation.



Completing the System:

A consultant was retained in August 2008 to develop a CHRS Systems Plan, identifying 'gaps' in the current system and refining criteria and policies supporting the identification of additional rivers for inclusion in the CHRS. The Board is intent on strengthening the CHRS through the nomination of key outstanding rivers that add value to the existing system. The Board is also committed to ensuring that CHRS policies and government participation reflect the needs of the System and support effective program implementation.

Nominations and Designations:

Two new nominations were added to the system this year. The Ottawa River (Ontario) nomination was approved in May 2008 by then federal Environment Minister John Baird and Ontario Natural Resources Minister Donna Cansfield. The Ottawa River Heritage Designation Committee will submit the Ottawa River Management Plan to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board for review at the next annual meeting to be held in April 2009.

In March 2009, the nomination of the St. John River (New Brunswick) was approved by federal Environment Minister Jim Prentice and Ontario Natural Resources Minister Donna Cansfield. Members of The St. John River Society will meet with the CRHB at the annual meeting in April 2009, where a presentation outlining the heritage values of the river will be offered.

In addition, work is being conducted to create the Supplementary Nomination to extend the Boundary Waters – Voyageur Waterway, which will be tabled at the June 2010 Board meeting.

While no new designations occurred during the 2008-2009 fiscal year, significant work was conducted in compiling information for identifying future designations, include work completed through the National Gap Analysis.

The Coppermine River Management Plan was reviewed and accepted by the Board at the June 2008 annual meeting. The formal designation of the Coppermine River into the CHRS is contingent upon the finalization of an Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement for Heritage Rivers in Nunavut.

River Monitoring:

Ten Year Monitoring Reports were produced for the Alsek, South Nahanni, Hillsborough, French, Bloodvein, Bonnet Plume, Shelburne and Margaree rivers. 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 that each of these rivers continue to maintain the qualities and values for which they were nominated.

Communications:

Parks Canada will host, with partners, the 6th Canadian River Heritage Conference. The conference, slated to be held in Ottawa-Gatineau in June 2009, will coincide with the 25th anniversary of the CHRS. A thirty member organizing committee, including members from the federal, provincial and municipal governments, along with the Algonquin First Nations, area conservation authorities, non-government organizations (NGO's) and private citizens, have begun their collaborative efforts in developing the conference mission, theme, program and logistics.

As reflected in the title of the conference, *Our Living Rivers: Linking Nature, People and Places through Time*, rivers link us to each other, to the environment, to our past and to our future. The "Our Living Rivers" conference logo depicts the presence and vibrant nature of aquatic life in a river. The eyes in the river reflect the living nature of water and the myriad web of life it supports. The abstract style of the logo represents the cultural associations we have with our rivers through history, art and imagination.





The conference will continue to be an excellent means of encouraging partnerships with groups that support responsible river management and is slated to have the largest Aboriginal and youth component to date. It will include plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, two interactive workshops, a panel discussion, focused field trips and two evening events. The domain name, *riversconference.ca*, was purchased by the CHRS and will be the main avenue for communicating conference information. This domain name will be maintained for all future Canadian River Heritage Conferences, allowing for consistency and continuity of a web presence.

Canadian Rivers Day:

At the June 2008 CHRB meeting, the Board agreed to renew the current memorandum of understanding with the Canadian Wildlife Federation to jointly promote Canadian Rivers Day for 2009 and 2010. In tandem with the Canadian Wildlife Federation, a *Rivers to Oceans Week* has been established which focuses on education programs in public schools across Canada. *Canadian Rivers Day* is an important component of this week long celebration.

The poster produced for *Canadian Rivers Day 2008* was well received, and almost 6,000 copies were distributed nationally to each jurisdiction, and to conservation organizations and individual river conservation authorities and other governing bodies. The CHRS will continue to support and promote Canadian Rivers Day efforts across the country.

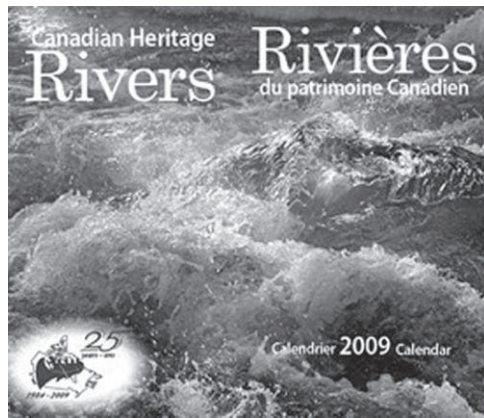


Ojibway Artist Nokomis

Going to the Dentist.

CHRS Website:

The CHRS website continues to evolve and improve, with positive response from the public regarding its content and overall appeal. Monthly visitation exceeds 400,000 contacts. The new Image Gallery, built in 2007, now contains over one thousand images. Information on the 6th Canadian River Heritage Conference is one of the main new features. Given the explosion of social media in recent years, the CHRS Secretariat will continue to improve and update web content, while striving to embrace new social mediums to create a more current, interactive and visual tool.



Louise Tanguay

Ottawa River, Ontario.

Canadian Heritage Rivers Calendar:

The CHRS continued its partnership with Paddling Canada with the production of the annual Canadian Heritage Rivers Calendar. The 2009 Canadian Heritage Rivers calendar was distributed to the CHRS Board and Secretariat, as well as members of Paddle Canada. It was also available through individual sales and promotional events. Profits from the sale of the calendar are used to support national river conservation projects sponsored by Paddle Canada. 🌿



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 2008-2009

The Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of Environment
Government of Canada

The Honourable Chuck Strahl
Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development
Government of Canada

The Honourable Charlene Johnson
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 Donald Arseneault
Minister of Natural Resources
Government of New Brunswick

The Honourable Valerie E. Docherty
Minister of Tourism
Government of Prince Edward Island

The Honourable Donna Cansfield
Minister of Natural Resources
Government of Ontario

The Honourable Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation
Government of Manitoba

The Honourable Nancy Heppner
Minister of Saskatchewan Environment
Government of Saskatchewan

The Honourable Cindy Ady
Minister of Tourism, Parks,
Recreation and Culture
Government of Alberta

The Honourable Barry Penner
Minister of Environment
Government of British Columbia

The Honourable Elaine Taylor
Minister of Environment
Government of Yukon

The Honourable Bob McLeod
Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the Northwest Territories

The Honourable Daniel Shewchuk
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

The Board

The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board (CHRB) 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 CHRB is composed of one representative from Parks Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), and a representative from each of the participating provincial and territorial governments, with the exception of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, where each are represented on the Board by a government-appointed 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 2008-2009 Chairperson is John Leduc of Nova Scotia. ❁

CHRS Board of Directors 2008-2009

John Leduc, 2008-2009
Chairperson (Nova Scotia)

Sian French (Newfoundland & Labrador)

David Boyce (Prince Edward Island)

Harry Collins (New Brunswick)

Adair Ireland-Smith (Ontario)

Barry Bentham (Manitoba)

Ken Lozinsky (Saskatchewan)

Doug Bowes (Alberta)

Brian Bawtinheimer (British Columbia)

David Monteith (Nunavut)

David Hastings (Northwest Territories)

Eric Val (Yukon)

Doug Stewart (Parks Canada)

Matt Bender (INAC)

CHRS Staff

Don Gibson: National Manager

Andrea McNeil: Marketing and Publicity

Brian Grimsey: Senior Planner



Parks Canada

The South Nahanni River, Nahanni Expansion Area.

River News

Across Canada, many exciting developments and great projects are taking place on Canadian Heritage Rivers. The following are a number of good news stories from many of the rivers that make up the CHRS.

Arctic Red (Northwest Territories): In August 2008, four instructors from Mount Royal College in Calgary paddled the Arctic Red River. They will be providing the CHRB and the Government of Northwest Territories with a State of the River report based on the Ten-Year Monitoring Report that was completed in 2005.

Bloodvein (Manitoba/Ontario): An additional area, containing more of the headwaters of the Bloodvein River, will be protected as part of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park as a result of *Keeping the Land – Land Use Strategy (2006)*. This land use strategy was developed by Pikangikum First Nation. The Paishk North addition makes up part of their Dedicated Protected Areas Strategy.

Bonnet Plume (Yukon): With help from the Peel Watershed Land Use Planning Process, which is complementary to the Bonnet Plume Management Plan, two outstanding implementation issues were addressed which include; developing levels of acceptable change for the region and completing a Land-Use Capability Assessment. Both initiatives will be helpful in protecting the region and the Bonnet Plume River as a Canadian Heritage River.



Bonnet Plume River, Yukon.

Parks Canada

Boundary Waters-Voyageur Waterway (Ontario): A proposal is currently being prepared to extend the Boundary Waters-Voyageur Waterway. The 523 km addition would commence at the mouth of the Rainy River at Lake of the Woods, then pass through Lac La Croix, through several lakes and rivers in Quetico Provincial Park, along the Dog River and through Dog Lake, and finally along the Kaministiquia River to Lake Superior at Fort William. This route was the original east/west passage and its inclusion in the CHRS will better reflect the history of exploration and trade linkages to the great Northwest.

Clearwater (Alberta/Saskatchewan): Along the Clearwater, the threat of pollution due to the oil sands threatened the river. Thanks to the Clearwater Heritage River Society, who emphasized the importance of this Canadian Heritage River with the oil companies, almost all have agreed to restrict their drilling activities to stay outside the 100 meter setback from the top of the bank, as stated in the Management Plan.



Clearwater, Alberta.

Parks Canada

Cowichan (British Columbia): The stabilization of the Stoltz Bluff over the Cowichan River was one of the most remarkable river restoration projects in Canada. This silt bluff was eroding and releasing massive amounts of fine sediment into the river, resulting in the destruction of critical fish habitat and spawning grounds and adversely affecting water quality downstream. The survival rate of Cowichan Chinook Salmon and Steelhead was less than 6% in some years and were in danger of not achieving biological replacement. The challenges of the project included; diverting a one km stretch of the River; drying out the channel; moving over 40,000 cubic metres of river sediment; keeping 30,000 stranded fish



alive; and bypassing over 3,000 river recreationalists during the summer. A coalition of local partners used the Cowichan heritage river designation to mobilize community and financial support from a diverse range of stakeholders. Chaired by the Cowichan Tribes, the partnership roundtable included federal and provincial government agencies, industry, NGO and community representatives. Since completion of the project, the ecological integrity of the river has been improved, spawning grounds restored and recreational use enhanced. This project was a remarkable engineering milestone, and it showcases the benefits of a multi-agency community stewardship approach to river conservation.



Rick Axford, Nanaimo, BC

Stolz Bluff – Prior to stabilization project.
Cowichan River, British Columbia.



James Craig, Nanaimo, BC

Stolz Bluff – Following completion of the stabilization project.
Cowichan River, British Columbia.

Detroit (Ontario): Over the past year, efforts have been made to restore habitat in the Detroit River watershed. This has resulted in improved fish and wildlife habitat and diversity, aesthetics, overall watershed health, and an increase in riparian and upland forest habitats. From a recreation perspective, a new Conservation Area, Petite Côte was added in the Town of LaSalle. This 30 acre Conservation Area features a wetland boardwalk with a viewing tower overlooking a Provincially Significant Wetland, important march habitat, and the Detroit River.

French (Ontario): The French River continues to evolve with stronger ties with the local Aboriginal communities. The French River Métis Tribe generously donated a traditionally made birch bark canoe and paddle to the visitor centre. The canoe was received with an appropriate ceremony as was a similar canoe already on loan to the centre from Dokis First Nation.

Grand (Ontario): To increase public awareness regarding the importance of heritage features and values, the Heritage Working Group initiated an update to the Heritage River Inventory. Led by the Grand River Conservation Authority, supported by the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation, and with the help of the Heritage Resources Centre, University of Waterloo, the inventory was reviewed and a human heritage map layer was created and added to the GRCA’s internet-based mapping tool. The inventory can now be referred to when heritage features along the Grand are being contemplated for replacement, demolition or modification, ensuring the significance of the feature to the heritage river designation is acknowledged and appropriately considered.

Humber (Ontario): One hundred hectares of terrestrial and aquatic habitat were enhanced, 5 wetlands were created, 4,000 square metres of invasive species were removed and the once manicured shoreline of Lake Wilcox was naturalized to improve lake-habitat and wildlife populations.

Main (Newfoundland and Labrador): When the Main River designation package was submitted by the Provincial Government to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, it was proposed this Canadian Heritage River comprise a 152 square kilometre waterway provincial park, with an additional 49 square kilometre special management area protected under



the province's *Lands Act*. The establishment of the Main River Waterway Provincial Park and Special Management Area are currently being considered by the Ministry of Environment and Conservation for Newfoundland and Labrador, within the boundary of the Main Canadian Heritage River. Should this initiative come to fruition, it will be a tangible result of the provincial government's commitment to protecting and managing the river in perpetuity.

Red (Manitoba): Rivers West, the champion of the Red River in Manitoba, continues to act as the "voice" of the Red River by communicating the need for a greater *Duty of Care* to be exercised by all in conserving the Red River's values. The Management Approach of the Red River is framed around Rivers West's goals and objectives that guide its activities in working to fulfill its mandate and vision as well as the mission statement for managing the Red as a Canadian Heritage River.

Shelburne (Nova Scotia): The Tent Dwellers 2008 centennial festival was held along the Shelburne River in Nova Scotia. Due to the river's remoteness, much of the activity that has taken place along the river has been research oriented. Having a large festival of this kind was quite a celebration for the Shelburne River, bringing together literary enthusiasts and wilderness canoeists.

South Nahanni River (Northwest Territories): The federal government has committed to expand Nahanni National Park, by up to eight times in area, encompassing virtually the entire watershed of the South Nahanni River.

St. Croix (New Brunswick): After five years of planning and development, the Quoddy Learning Centre opened at the Ganong Nature and Marine Park in August 2008. The Learning Centre and Park offer trails, beach access, interpretation and meeting facilities on a 140 hectare peninsula on the St. Croix estuary. These support the recreational, interpretive and conservation objectives of the St. Croix plan.

St. Marys (Ontario): Significant monitoring and assessment work is ongoing in the St. Marys River since it was listed as an area of concern in the Great Lakes. An \$8 million cleanup project in Tannery Bay, along the St. Marys River, has been completed. Now that sediment removal has concluded, the

shoreline is to be restored and replanted with native plants. There are a number of local volunteer monitoring groups in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and Ontario for citizens to become involved in conservation and protection of this shared and valued natural resource.



Parks Canada

River rafting on the Tatshenshini River.

Tatshenshini (Yukon): Two mineral exploration-related projects were issued land-use permits within the designated area of the river; the most notable for the construction of an airstrip at Squaw Creek. Concerns were raised regarding the airstrip and aircraft flights over the Tatshenshini as having potential negative impact on river travelers, while potentially enlarging the footprint of industrial activities. In order to minimize impacts, avoidance of flying over the river corridor and minimum flight levels were conditions of the land-use permit.

Thames (Ontario): A group of London artists paddled down the Thames River re-creating a journey, taken a century earlier, by renowned artist Paul Peel and others. The artists connected with numerous communities along the way. Their journey, their artwork and what they learned was shared with many groups throughout the watershed. In 2007-2008 a group of 14 London artists put together an exhibit they called "The River Project". All works focused on the Thames River in London. From their work, a book was published, supported in part by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Proceeds went to many local not-for-profit groups.

Rivers Downstream

Progress continues toward 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 is currently being compiled into a Background Study; the first major step on the course towards nomination.

Work continues on the nomination process, including a background study, for the Shubenacadie River in Nova Scotia. Under the direction of the Protected Areas Branch, Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour, the two-year project of collecting and assessing information on the heritage values of the Shubenacadie River is now largely complete. This report will be used to engage local stakeholders in seeking the river's nomination to the CHRS, planned for May 2010.

In June 2008, the Board reviewed the nomination of the Adams River in British Columbia, pending First Nations approval of the nomination. Once approval is received, a letter of recommendation will go forward to the provincial and federal Ministers.

Other rivers currently being explored for possible nomination include the South Saskatchewan River in Saskatchewan and the upper Saint Lawrence River in Ontario.



MacKenzie River, Nova Scotia.

Nominations and Designations

Ottawa River (Ontario)

The Ontario portion of the Ottawa River was officially deemed a Candidate Canadian Heritage River in May 2008 with the nomination approval by federal Environment Minister John Baird and Ontario Minister of Natural Resources Donna Cansfield. The nomination set in motion a process for maintaining the river's outstanding heritage values, enhancing opportunities for heritage appreciation, strengthening prospects for business growth and development, furthering tourism activities and facilities, improving river health, and heightening responsibility and community pride for the river. Broad

public interest exists in having the Ottawa River's rich natural and cultural heritage conserved and enhanced, and its tourism and economic values strengthened through special recognition and sound management actions and stewardship.

This 1241 km river is a storybook of Canadian history. The nomination recognizes historic Aboriginal and European settlement and artefacts, the fur trade, archaeological sites, the logging industry, land settlement patterns, the parliament buildings and more. While not nominated on the basis of natural values the Ottawa does contain significant natural heritage features. The rich ecosystem of the Ottawa sustains more than 80 species at risk and provides habitat for more than 300 species of birds.

The Ottawa River Heritage Designation Committee will develop a management plan which will articulate how the heritage values of the river will be sustainably managed and enhanced. A committee of community volunteers will host public meetings to collect feedback about the designation for input to the management plan. As the next step in the process of seeking formal designation, this management plan will be prepared in conjunction with the Ontario government.

Ten-Year Monitoring Reports

Rivers designated as Canadian Heritage Rivers are monitored regularly through the implementation of an approved management plan to ensure their original nomination values are maintained. Any changes to a river's heritage, its integrity values, such as its water quality, or any related activities, issues or management actions that could affect these values should be known. Every ten years, following the designation of a river as a Canadian Heritage River, the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board requires that the managing jurisdiction prepare a comprehensive and detailed report detailing the state of the river and the status of plan implementation. This monitoring determines whether a river will continue to merit designation.

During the 2008-09 year, there were eight rivers that had 10-year monitoring reports submitted, including;

- Alsek (Yukon)
- South Nahanni (Northwest Territories)
- Hillsborough (Prince Edward Island)
- French (Ontario)
- Bloodvein (Manitoba/Ontario)
- Bonnet Plume (Yukon)
- Shelburne (Nova Scotia)
- Margaree (Nova Scotia)

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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Nova Scotia Environment

Shelburne River, Nova Scotia.