




The
Canadian
 Heritage Rivers
SYSTEM



ANNUAL REPORT
 2002-2003



April 2003

*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 nineteenth
Annual Report on the Canadian Heritage Rivers
System (CHRS) for the fiscal year 2002-2003.

Respectfully submitted,



David Monteith
Chairperson
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board
2002-2003

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Cover Art: From an original oil painting by Doug Andrews

Doug Andrews

Artist Doug Andrews has painted scenes of rural Ontario for more than 30 years. His style is remarkable in its realism. To see more paintings by Doug Andrews, visit www.ander-vale.ca

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Chairperson's Report



Looking down from my home near the top of the world, I see the country from a very different perspective than most Canadians. The northern lights are to the south. Summer winds blew the smoke from the fires in northern Quebec away from me and towards the population centres of the continent. On-going river issues – managing recreational use, pollution, shoreline development, decline of recreational fisheries – often seem far away indeed when most of the rivers I see don't have more than a few parties paddle down them each summer, the water is as pristine as the melting snow, and shoreline modification is most commonly caused by caribou.

But many of the issues common to CHRS rivers are creeping northward. The expansion of mining, logging, and the demand for hydro-electricity, and the increasing importance of tourism to the northern economy all have implications for our northern rivers. We cannot assume that distance and a long winter make us immune from the issues that concern many of Canada's rivers.

Like other river managers in the CHRS, we have to wrestle with difficult choices. The CHRS is at its core a program that manages and strengthens our relationship with rivers. At the core of river management are some basic questions that are often overlooked in the north, where we have such an abundance of wild and pristine rivers that we often assume, or overlook, or take for granted the answers without actually asking the questions:

- What do we, as a society, as a community, as a river user, as a resident in a watershed, need from a river?
- What do we want from a river?
- What are the needs of the River?

Rivers in the north, as elsewhere, have always provided food, transportation routes, places of beauty and spiritual renewal. But in these times of rapid social (and climatic) change, we may find other needs – hydro-electric power, a dependable source of clean drinking water, a source of water for industrial uses. What do we need from a river?

The next question is: “What do we, as a society, as a community, as a river user, and/or as a resident in a watershed, want? And how do we distinguish needs from wants? For example, do we want a river to provide a place of great beauty, or do we need it to?”

The final question that must be posed is the one that is most often not given enough attention, and may indeed be the most important question of all is: “What are the needs of the river?”

In our lives, we seek a balance between physical, spiritual, intellectual needs and desires. In our lives as caretakers of Canadian Heritage Rivers, we must also seek a balance. As the program matures, and the focus of the program shifts from acquiring more rivers to taking better care of the rivers in the system, CHRS river managers and Board members must focus on these questions to ensure that the integrity of the rivers is maintained, while at the same time seeing that the needs and wants of those who live, play and work along our heritage rivers are also taken care of.

That is our challenge, and in no way are our northern rivers buffered from dealing with the same basic questions as other rivers in Canada.

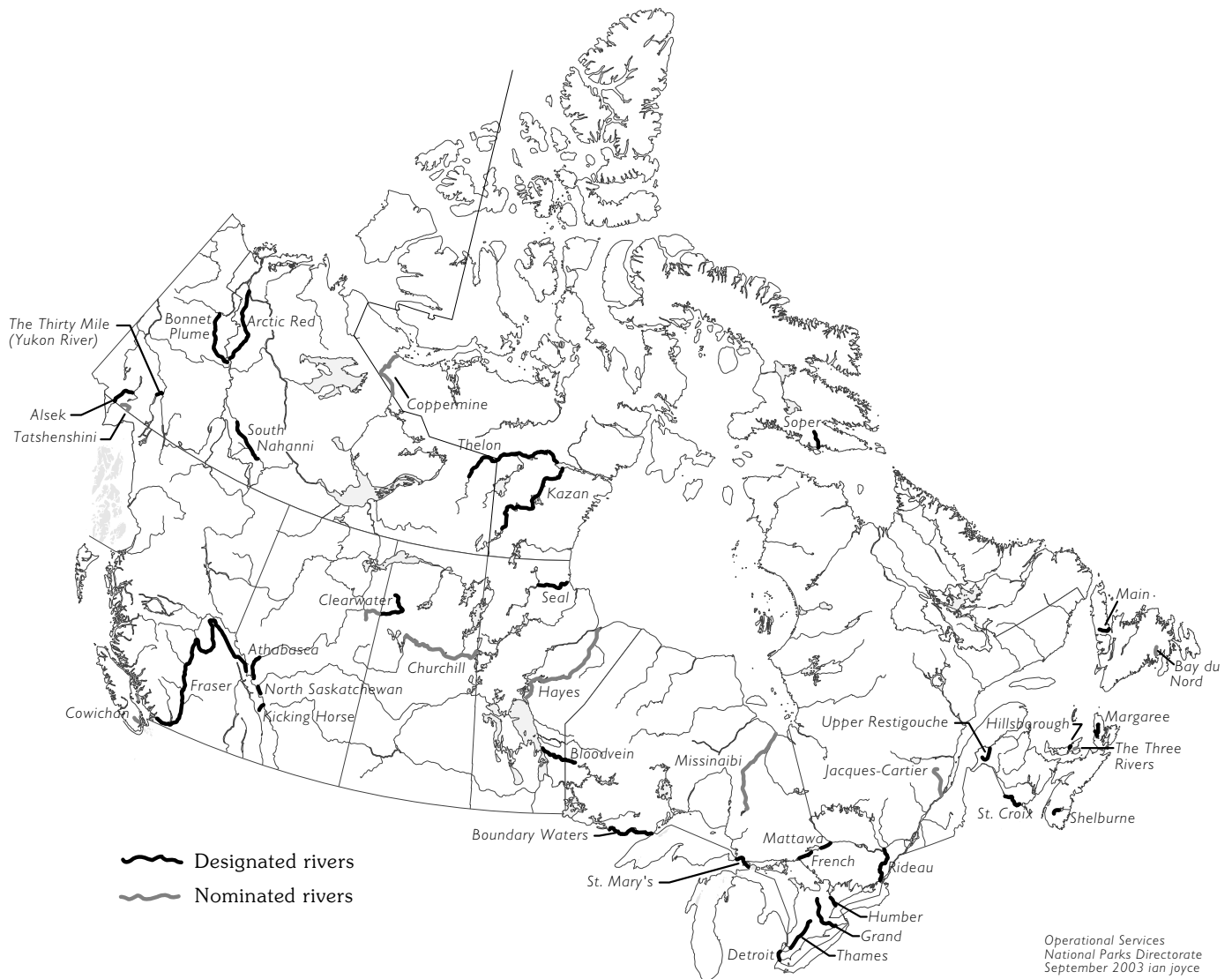
It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. I offer my best wishes to David Boyce, the new chairperson from Prince Edward Island for a challenging and fulfilling term.

Chairperson
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board
2002-2003

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 9922 kms. Thirty of these have been designated, meaning that the management plans detailing how their heritage values will be protected have been lodged with the CHR 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
Clearwater ²	Saskatchewan (Clearwater River PWP)	June 1987	187
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
TOTAL			7387

Nominated Rivers

River	Location Province/Territory (Park)	Anticipated Designation Date	Length (in km)
Missinaibi	Ontario (Missinaibi PP)	May 2004	501
Clearwater ²	Alberta	October 2004	139
Cowichan	British Columbia	October 2004	47
Bay du Nord	Newfoundland (Bay du Nord Wilderness Park Reserve)	May 2005	75
Jacques-Cartier	Quebec (Jacques-Cartier PP)	May 2004	128
Tatshenshini	Yukon	May 2004	45
Hayes	Manitoba	May 2005	590
The Three Rivers	Prince Edward Island	May 2004	73
Churchill	Saskatchewan	May 2004	487
Coppermine	Nunavut	May 2005	450
TOTAL			2535

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 has been nominated in two sections by Saskatchewan and Alberta.
The Saskatchewan section has been designated.
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.



Status of 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. 2003 represents the seventh 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 2002-2003 towards these four initiatives include the following:



Actively Managing and Completing the System

- Reviewed prescreening document for the Red River, Manitoba.
- Commenced background study (Deh Cho section) of the Mackenzie River, Northwest Territories.
- Ongoing work on the management plans and public consultations for The Three Rivers, Prince Edward Island, the Hayes River, Manitoba and the Tatshenshini River, Yukon.
- Completed draft management plans for the Missinaibi River, Ontario, the Clearwater River, Alberta and the Cowichan River, British Columbia.
- Completed monitoring checklists for the Clearwater and Cowichan Rivers.
- Completed Ten-Year Monitoring Reports for the Soper River, Nunavut and the Yukon River (Thirty Mile section), Yukon.
- Completed work on a review template for ten year monitoring reports.



Communications

- Supported Rivers Canada in the organization of the first Canadian Rivers Day.
- Plaque unveiling ceremonies held for the Mattawa River (La Vase extension), Ontario and the Main River, Newfoundland.
- Established partnership with the Grand River Conservation Authority and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to host the Fourth Canadian River Heritage Conference at the University of Guelph in June, 2004.
- Sponsored, in conjunction with the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association, the production of the 2003 Heritage Rivers Calendar. Five thousand calendars were printed, and almost 4,000 were given away or sold, generating a profit of over \$5,000 for the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association, and excellent publicity for the CHRS.
- Organized national tour of the CHRS exhibit with displays in Jasper National Park, Deer Lake, Newfoundland and London, Ottawa and North Bay, Ontario.
- Highlighted CHRS information products and display materials at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Established partnership with the Brisbane Australia Riverfestival and Symposium to have the CHRS exhibit and display highlighted at the sixth River Symposium and Trade Expo in September, 2003.
- Produced draft fact sheet for the Hayes River, Manitoba.

- Produced new CHRS brochure “Your River, Your Heritage, Your Future” which describes the CHRS nomination and designation process.
- Published 2002-2003 CHRS Annual Report which was distributed nationally and internationally.
- Further developed the CHRS website at *www.chrs.ca*
- Supported Year 3 of television production series on Great Canadian Rivers, including 3 rivers in the CHRS: the Missinaibi in Ontario, Three Rivers in Prince Edward Island, and the Kicking Horse River in British Columbia.
- Official sponsor of the Waterwalker Film Festival.
- Detailed information on the CHRS and the rivers included in the system is featured in the new online version of the Canadian Encyclopaedia.
- The CHRS was again invited to set up an exhibit at the second Minister’s Round Table on Parks and Protected Areas, held in Ottawa March 23-25, 2003. This was a unique opportunity to promote the program to leaders in government and non-government agencies.

The CHRS was invited to set up an exhibit and present papers at the Parks Research Forum of Ontario (PRFO) conference, focussing on Watershed Management and Science, held at the University of Waterloo. Two papers were presented on the CHRS. The proceedings for this conference are in press.

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Leadership

- Federal, provincial and territorial Ministers continue to affirm their governments’ commitment to the Heritage Rivers Program through the CHRS Charter.
- Completion of sixth 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 discussion paper on funding for Northern studies and Ten-Year Monitoring Reports.
- 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 (2002-2003)

The Honourable Sheila Copps
Minister of Canadian Heritage
Government of Canada

The Honourable Robert Nault
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Government of Canada

The Honourable Julie Bettney
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Honourable Greg Deighan
Minister of Tourism
Government of Prince Edward Island

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

The Honourable Jeannot Volpé
Minister of Natural Resources and Energy
Government of New Brunswick

L'honorable Richard Legendre
Ministre de la Faune et des Parcs
Gouvernement du Québec

The Honourable Jerry J. Ouellette
Minister of Natural Resources
Government of Ontario

The Honourable Steve Ashton
Minister of Conservation
Government of Manitoba

The Honourable Buckley Belanger
Minister of Environment
Government of Saskatchewan

The Honourable Gene Zwozdesky
Minister of Community Development
Government of Alberta

The Honourable Joyce Murray
Minister of Water, Land, and Air Protection
Government of British Columbia

The Honourable Jim Kenyon
Minister of Environment
Government of Yukon

The Honourable Jim L. Antoine
Minister of Resources, Wildlife and
Economic Development
Government of the Northwest Territories

The Honourable Olayuk Akesuk
Minister of Sustainable Development
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 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 2003-2004 Chairperson will be David Boyce, Executive Director, Southeast Environmental Association, Prince Edward Island. 🍁

CHRS Board of Directors 2002-2003

David Monteith, 2002-2003 Chairperson (Nunavut)

Mike Cahill (Newfoundland and Labrador)

David Boyce (Prince Edward Island)

John Leduc (Nova Scotia)

Harry Collins (New Brunswick)

Alain Hebert (Quebec)

Adair Ireland-Smith (Ontario)

Gord Jones (Manitoba)

Don MacAulay (Saskatchewan)

John Kristensen (Alberta)

Mark Angelo (British Columbia)

Gerry LePrieur (Northwest Territories)

Walter Brennan (Yukon)

Nik Lopoukhine (Parks Canada)

Annick Lehenaff (Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development)

CHRS Staff

Don Gibson: National Manager

Max Finkelstein: Marketing and Publicity

Brian Grimsey: Senior planner

Wayne Roach: Technical Support



Parks Canada

River Designations and Nominations in 2002-2003

There were no new nominations or designations to the CHRS in 2002-2003.

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".

The Rivers

Although there were no new nominations or designations, it was a busy year for the CHRS program. The dearth of designations and nominations does not reflect flagging momentum, but rather a maturing program whose energies may be shifting from acquiring new rivers to taking care of the rivers already in the System. This does not mean that new nominations are not being considered. As this Annual Report goes to press, exciting discussions are on-going concerning nominating the entire Mackenzie River, Canada's biggest river. Also, momentum is building for a possible nomination of the Ottawa River and St. John River, two of Canada's most significant rivers from an historical viewpoint.

Perhaps the most exciting development regarding not just Canadian Heritage Rivers, but all of Canada's rivers, took place on June 21, 2002, when the Honourable Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage, announced that "the second Sunday of June will be celebrated henceforth as Canadian Rivers Day". The CHRS is working with Rivers Canada, a non-governmental organization that has taken on the task of organizing the national launch of the first Canadian Rivers Day at the Canadian Museum of Civilization on June 8, 2003.

For more information on Canadian Rivers Day contact Elmer Savoie, Executive Director, Rivers Canada at elmer@rivcan.ca, or visit www.rivcan.ca

As part of the national launch of Canadian Rivers Day, the 'Stream of Dreams' is coming to the National Capital. *Stream of Dreams* is an innovative watershed education project, the inspiration of two teachers from Burnaby, B.C. The mission of *Stream of Dreams* is to educate communities about the life and function of their watersheds, rivers, and streams, while dazzling them with the charm of community art. The CHRS is proud to partner with these organizations that share our goal of helping to protect and enhance Canada's river heritage.

Plans are coming together for the 4th Canadian River Heritage Conference, to be held June 6-9, 2004, in Guelph, on the banks of the Grand River. 🍁



Dot Bonnenfant

The logo for the 4th Canadian River Heritage Conference depicts a river and an historic arched bowstring bridge. From the time Canada was first settled, our rivers have been the defining symbol of our communities and our country, forming common bonds that join us to our neighbours upstream and downstream and linking each generation in a life experience. Rivers are symbols of time, of history and life itself. Rivers are our greatest legacy to our children. Bowstring bridges are still distinctive landmarks throughout the Grand River watershed. The logo aptly symbolizes the conference theme: *Ribbons of Life: Celebrating the Past – Charting the Future.*

For information on the Conference, visit the CHRS website at www.chrs.ca or www.riverconference2004.ca 🍁



Dot Bonnenfant

Alquonquin Elder William Commanda at the national launch of Canadian Rivers Day

The 4th
CANADIAN
RIVER HERITAGE
CONFERENCE



GUELPH, ONTARIO
June 6 - 9, 2004



Monitoring Canadian Heritage Rivers

The submission of two Ten-Year Reports, for the Soper River in Nunavut and the Yukon River (Thirty Mile Section) in the Yukon, underscored the changing priorities of the CHRS, as the program matures. The importance of monitoring CHRS rivers in a consistent, scientific, manner was reflected in the development of a new template for Ten Year Monitoring Reports.

Many rivers in the CHRS have achieved significant steps towards avoiding or repairing mistakes of the past. A sampling of some of these include:

- Collaborative projects with both Canadian and U.S. conservation groups to protect wetlands along the St. Marys River (Ontario).
- Researching and protecting striped bass in the Hillsborough River (PEI).
- Preparation of information packages for wilderness paddlers on the Seal River (Manitoba), and measuring the impacts of campsites along the Bloodvein River (Manitoba/Ontario). Both projects will help ensure quality wilderness experiences for paddlers on these rivers.
- Establishing an interprovincial park comprised of Manitoba's Atikaki Provincial park and Ontario's Woodland Caribou Provincial park, which will facilitate better coordination and cooperation for managing the Bloodvein River.
- Habitat classification mapping, fish species inventory was completed on all Detroit River tributaries. Also relating to fish, a major fish habitat enhancement project was completed on the Detroit River, consisting of several offshore sheltering islands and numerous other habitat features, to create a large sheltered embayment.
- More than 500 volunteers participated in 4 Detroit River watershed cleanups and tree planting events throughout the year.
- A new visitor centre in French River Provincial Park, an Ontario Living Legacy/Great Lakes Heritage Coast initiative, will feature interpretive exhibits and educational events related to the cultural and natural resources of the river and the Georgian Bay coast. Construction of this facility is scheduled to begin the late summer of 2003.
- Another major interpretive centre is being built on the St. Croix River, New Brunswick, a \$6 million facility that will promote the natural and cultural heritage of the St. Croix border region. Construction is underway, and the center is scheduled to open early in 2004.
- Following on the groundbreaking work done by the Fraser Basin Council in implementing a Charter for Sustainability (see 2001-2002 CHRS Annual Report), the Council published a comprehensive set of sustainability indicators for the Fraser River watershed, and released its "Snapshot on Sustainability: State of the Fraser Basin Report" in January, 2003. Groundbreaking work also continued on the recovery plan for the Nechako River White Sturgeon, which will be used as a template for other species-at-risk recovery plans.
- On the Humber River in Ontario, community action for environmental protection and rehabilitation continued in full force, with over 2,500 volunteers planting 190,000 trees, creating wetlands, developing interpretive trails and signs, building nesting structures and hybernacula, and cleaning up garbage. For the second year in a row, the Humber River was recognized internationally as a finalist of the Thiess Services International Riverprize, Australia.

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. 🍁



Commemorating Canadian Heritage Rivers

Two plaque unveiling ceremonies took place in 2002-2003 the La Vase Portages extension to the Mattawa River in Ontario, and the Main River in Newfoundland. On July 22, 2002, on a hot sunny summer day on the shores of Trout lake, the headwaters of the Mattawa River, a gathering of a diverse group of people representing federal, provincial, municipal, Conservation Authority, First Nations, and heritage preservation groups, along with a considerable crowd of onlookers, officially welcomed the La Vase Portages to the CHRS, as an

extension of the Mattawa River. After the ceremony, many of the participants went for a swim in the clean, clear waters of Trout Lake.

The weather was colder, but the welcome just as warm, as the Main River was officially welcomed to the CHRS at a ceremony on November 15, at Sops Arm, Newfoundland. Unlike the La Vase ceremony, no one at the Main River ceremony went swimming, as the river was frozen solid. ❁



Plans, Studies and Research

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. Parks Canada staff co-operate in the preparation of system studies, background studies, nomination documents, management plans and monitoring reports. For more information on these, see the publication "Your River, Your Heritage, Your Future, or contact the Secretariat.

In 2002-2003, a background study was commenced for the Mackenzie River (Northwest Territories). Management plans were completed for the Cowichan River (British Columbia) and the Clearwater-Christina River (Alberta). Work continued on management plans for the Three Rivers System (Prince Edward island), the Tatshenshini River (Yukon) and the Hayes River (Manitoba).

The Ten-Year Monitoring Report was completed for the Yukon River: Thirty Mile Section (Yukon). Work also began on a Ten-Year Monitoring Report for the Soper River (Nunavut). ❁



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

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