New Parks North

An annual progress report on natural and cultural heritage initiatives in Northern Canada.

March 2012

www.newparksnorth.org

Newsletter 21



Introduction

This annual newsletter provides brief status reports on projects concerning the establishment and development of new parks and conservation initiatives in northern Canada. Aboriginal land claims remain a key factor in the establishment of parks and protected areas.

Eleven of Yukon's 14 First Nations have Final Agreements and Self-Government Agreements in place. The Council of Yukon First Nations (www.cyfn.ca) is the central political organization for the First Nation people of the Yukon.

Approximately 18% of the lands in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region are conserved and managed in a co-operative manner under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (1984) or by agreement with Inuvialuit. The Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992) and the Sahtu

Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1993) address natural areas, wildlife and heritage conservation issues.

In the NWT, the federal and territorial governments are negotiating land, resources and governance matters with a number of Aboriginal groups. All of these negotiations are at various stages of agreement-in-principle negotiation (Dehcho First Nations, Akaitcho Dene First Nations, Acho Dene Koe First Nation, Northwest Territory Metis Nation).

Concluding land, resource and selfgovernment agreements will create a more stable and predictable society and economy for the NWT. It will also influence the timing of conservation proposals in those areas.

The Nunavut Land Claims
Agreement (1993) provides a process
for the establishment of national parks,

territorial parks and conservation areas in Nunavut. Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements must be concluded for all existing territorial parks and for management plans for all existing parks and conservation areas.

Further information on land claim agreements may be found at the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada site at http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/ eng/1100100030583/1100100030584

New Parks North has been organized by claim area or settlement region. These areas are indicated on the front-page map.

Judi Cozzetto, Editor

Highlights

Yukon, NWT and Nunavut Land Claim Settlement Regions

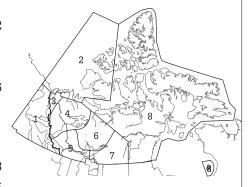
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Yukon

Government of Yukon – Environment Yukon

Parks and Conservation

Almost 12% of Yukon's land mass has been or is in the process of being protected for conservation purposes, whether as a park (national or territorial), special management area or habitat protection area. More protected areas may come in the future as a consequence of regional land use planning mandated by Yukon First Nation land claims. Four waterways have also been designated as Canadian Heritage Rivers (CHR). Progress was made in a few key areas over the course of 2011.

Canadian Heritage Rivers

The Tatshenshini River, the Thirty-Mile section of the Yukon River, the Alsek River and the Bonnet Plume River are designated CHRs. Yukon Parks continued to monitor industrial use on the "Tat", Bonnet Plume and Thirty-Mile throughout 2011 (e.g.: mineral exploration activities).

Initial results from the second Backcountry Recreational Impact Monitoring on the Thirty Mile section of the Yukon River indicate some overuse of the campsites. A more complete assessment will be conducted during 2012 to address or mitigate the problems associated with the high recreational use of the river.

The Bonnet Plume River lies in the Peel River watershed and is remote even by Yukon standards. The Final Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan continued to gather passionate public support in 2011. The planning partners — Government of Yukon (YG), Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation and Gwich'in Tribal Council — are working toward a final version of the plan.

Special Management Areas

Many Yukon First Nation Final Agreements provide for the creation of Special Management Areas (SMA) to support the preservation of ecological values as well as traditional First Nation use. SMAs can protect First Nations' settlement lands, territorial lands and/or federal lands. SMAs can acquire additional protection through designation as a Habitat Protection Area or Territorial Park, pursuant to the relevant territorial legislation.

Summit Lake-Bell River

The North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan calls for protecting the pristine Bell River and Summit Lake area, by the Yukon-NWT border, which contains some of the highest wildlife, fish, cultural, and heritage values in the region, including important concentrated use areas for the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

The Summit Lake-Bell River area also has high wilderness tourism and recreation value and potential. It is an important subsistence and cultural use area for Vuntut Gwitchin, Tetlit Gwich'in and Inuvialuit residents. YG will work with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation to determine the boundary for the protected area and what designation it should receive – Ecological Reserve, Wilderness Preserve, or Natural Environment Park.

Parks

Environment Yukon manages four territorial parks: Tombstone, Herschel Island-Qikiqtaruk, Ni'iinlii' Njik (Fishing Branch) and Coal River Springs.

Yukon First Nation Final Agreements call for three additional territorial parks to be established: Kusawa, Agay Mene, and Asi Keyi. Each will have a park management plan which must consider natural and heritage resource protection, park management structures, and existing recreational use. YG is

managing these park areas pending completion of the management plans.

Tombstone Territorial Park

YG installed entry signs at the north and south ends of the park, alongside the Dempster Highway, in summer 2011. A highlight of the new Tombstone Interpretive Centre's second full year of operations was the official opening of the Beaver Pond Trail. The centre hosted 12,500 visitors, a 25% increase over 2010, with most arriving through organized tours by licensed wilderness tourism operators.

The park management plan provides for employment and economic opportunities for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation citizens and directs activities in the park. The Yukon-Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in park management committee will undertake a review of the three-year-old plan in 2012.

Tombstone's 2,100 km² of diverse landscape and spectacular scenery make it a popular destination for hikers and other travelers. Backcountry campsites can be reserved at Grizzly, Divide and Talus lakes. The park also has a 36-site campground for road travelers.

Habitat Protection Areas

A Habitat Protected Area (HPA) is an area identified as requiring special protection under Yukon's *Wildlife Act*. HPA designations are used to manage areas where a wildlife species is concentrated at certain times of year, a habitat type is rare in the Yukon, or a site is particularly fragile.

Seven HPAs have been designated in Yukon to date, protecting about 5,770 km² of exceptional habitat. Four more are currently planned: Ddhaw Ghro, Lewes Marsh, Pickhandle Lakes and Tagish Narrows. Most HPAs were called for in First Nation Final Agreements. Detailed information about Yukon HPAs is available at www.env.gov.yk.ca/hpa.

Big Island

The Big Island HPA was designated in 2011 and the area withdrawn from mineral staking. It is 7.6 km² in size and lies about 5 km upstream of Mayo, in the Stewart River. This lowland habitat is heavily used by moose and many other species of wildlife.

A management plan provides guidelines for the long-term management of fish and wildlife, and their habitats, while allowing for traditional use of the HPA by Northern Tutchone people and the general public. The density of moose in the lower Stewart River valley is above the Yukon average; this HPA is also significant for birds, particularly waterfowl and shorebirds.

Devil's Elbow

The Devil's Elbow HPA lies between Stewart Crossing and Mayo, along the Stewart River. This lowland habitat was designated an HPA in 2011 because moose concentrate in this area in late winter, and use it for calving. It provides good habitat for waterfowl, fish, and a variety of other wildlife. This area was and is important to Northern Tutchone people for procuring wood, meat and fish.

A management plan for the area provides guidelines for the long-term management of fish and wildlife, and their habitats, while allowing for traditional use of the 75.1 km² HPA. Representatives from the

Mayo District Renewable Resources Council, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and YG developed the plan.

Devil's Elbow (locally referred to as 17 Mile) was named by the riverboat captains and pilots who had to "jack-knife" their boats and barges to make their way around the bend. The area was withdrawn from mineral staking when it became an HPA.

Pickhandle Lakes

A steering committee of Kluane First Nation, White River First Nation and YG members began the management planning process for the 51 km² HPA in 2011. The Pickhandle Lakes, located along the Alaska flyway, are an important waterfowl nesting and staging area that also supports healthy populations of furbearers and moose. The Kluane First Nation Final Agreement called for an HPA here. For more information visit www.yfwcm.ca/pickhandle.

Whitefish Wetlands

The North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan recommended that the 468 km² Whitefish Wetlands be designated an HPA. The wetlands are an important subsistence and cultural use area for the Vuntut Gwitchin and Tetlit Gwich'in First Nations. This area includes Vuntut Gwitchin settlement lands. YG and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation intend to start the planning process in 2012/13.

Regional Land Use Planning

The Yukon and First Nations governments use regional land use planning in order to ensure that use of lands and resources is consistent with social, cultural, economic and environmental values, as well as to prevent land use and resource conflicts. Yukon First Nation Final Agreements set out the process, which includes building upon the traditional knowledge and experience of the residents of each region.

There are eight regional planning regions in Yukon, with boundaries that generally reflect the boundaries of First Nation Traditional Territories. The North Yukon Land Use Plan was approved in 2009. In 2011, the Final Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan was submitted to the Yukon, Tron'dëk Hwëch'in, Vuntut Gwitchin and Na-Cho Nyäk Dun governments. Work began on the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan.

The regional land use planning process can be used to establish parks, HPAs and other protected areas not directly called for in First Nation Final Agreements. A good example of this is the North Yukon plan, which recommends the Summit Lake-Bell River area and Whitefish wetlands be protected. For more information about regional land use planning in Yukon visit www.planyukon.ca.

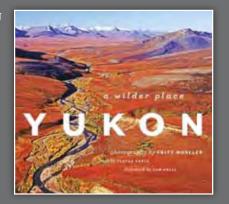
"Yukon – A Wilder Place"

In this remarkable collection of photographs, Fritz Mueller captures fleeting, compelling moments in a timeless Yukon landscape. Although the beauty of this raw landscape is a central theme, his images also tell the story of a magnificent, complex natural system. Mueller takes us on the annual migration of the Porcupine caribou herd and captures intimate portraits of icy grizzly bears gorging on salmon at the Arctic Circle. His appreciation for nature's minutiae – voles, berries, frogs – is a refreshing perspective.

This photographic work is complemented by text by Teresa Earle that describes the Yukon's vulnerability, as shown in photographs of fragile tundra ecosystems, a rare orchid photographed in a top-secret location, and an icefield bathed in the pink glow of desert dust carried from halfway around the globe.

The authors offer an exquisite portrayal of a wild place on the cusp of change. As wilderness vanishes and intact ecosystems deteriorate, the Yukon remains one of the last wild hot spots, a conservation treasure of international signifigance.

Produced in English, "Yukon - A Wilder Place" is available at bookstores throughout North America or may be purchased on-line at http://www.fritzmueller.com/store/book/.



Tourism and Heritage

Cultural Services Branch

Thirty Mile (Yukon) Canadian Heritage River

The Thirty Mile River is one of the most scenic and historic sections of the upper Yukon River, and was designated a Canadian Heritage River in 1991. It was also the most challenging part for navigators, which the presence of many sternwheeler wrecks will attest to. There are several settlements along this part of the river, including Lower Laberge and Hootalinqua. Shipyard Island hosts the impressive remains of the S.S. Evelyn/Norcom.

At Lower Laberge, the Telegraph Building was inspected by a structural engineer, and with the participation of the Ta'an Kwäch'än First Nation, structural reinforcement of the building was undertaken to sustain it for the coming winter snow loads. http://www.chrs.ca/Rivers/Yukon/Yukon_e.php

Fort Selkirk Historic Site

Fort Selkirk is viewed by many as the crown jewel of Yukon heritage. The site has been used by people for thousands of years and its over 40 standing structures, dating from as far back as 1892, represent a meeting place and home for two cultures. The restoration and interpretation program at Fort Selkirk was initiated 24 years ago, and the Selkirk First Nation/YG partnership realized numerous accomplishments at the site in 2011.

Celebration of the designation of Fort Selkirk as a Yukon Territorial Historic Site on 12 July, 2011, involved approximately 140 people attending from all parts of Yukon; including Chief Kevin McGinty of Selkirk First Nation, and Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor.

Work at the site in 2011 included additional restoration on the Taylor & Drury Store (a two year project started in 2010), roof and foundation replacement on the Armstrong and Joe Roberts cabins, and a structural upgrade to the Joe Roberts foundation.



Chief McGinty and Minister Taylor unveil the Fort Selkirk Historic Site designation plaque.

Numerous smaller repair and maintenance projects were undertaken. As a site with over 40 historic structures, all of which are built of wood, it is a constant battle to keep up with the natural deterioration. Increasingly the use of pressure treated foundations and rubberized roofing membranes are being utilized to lengthen the cycle between repairs and replacements.

Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site

This site, established in 1886, is famous for being Yukon's first gold mining community, having the first Northwest Mounted Police post and mission school, and being the location where the first Klondike Gold Rush claims were registered. There is evidence of human activity at the site 2,000 years prior to the gold prospector's arrival.

Numerous activities occurred at Forty Mile in 2011. The Store & Warehouse Building was stabilized with a new floor and enclosed foundation. Almost lost to flooding in 2009, the A.C.Co. Residence, possibly the oldest residential structure in Yukon dating back to the early

1890s, was covered with a roof and structurally stabilized. The Roadhouse stabilization was completed, enclosing the foundation, installing new doors and adding a front porch. The interior was developed to provide seasonal accommodation for caretakers/ interpreters, freeing up their former residence, Swanson's Store, as shelter for visitors.

Extensive interpretive signage has been installed throughout site and a new walking tour booklet has been printed.

http://trondekheritage.com/ourplaces/forty-mile/ http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/fortymile.html

Rampart and Lapierre House Historic Sites

Rampart House Historic Site, located near the mouth of Boundary Creek (Shanàghan K'òhnjik) at the boundary between the United States and Canada, was an important gathering place for Gwich'in living along the Porcupine River. It was one of the earliest Yukon places where Gwich'in met and interacted with fur traders, missionaries, police, and government officials. It was home to several



Forty Mile interpretive signage.

Gwich'in families and continues to be visited regularly by Gwich'in from Yukon and Alaska.

Continuing work on the Cadzow Warehouse included the installation of new flooring. The St. Luke's Anglican Church underwent foundation, lower and mid-wall log replacement, and partial roof framing replacement. Cache posts were replaced at the Frame Cache, re-using the original metal post sleeves (flattened kerosene cans). At the same time, the Cache received a partial replacement of the floor framing.

http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/rampart.html

Herschel Island Territorial Park

Herschel Island, Qikiqtaruk ("island" in Inuvialuit), is Yukon's only island in the Beaufort Sea. It has been occupied for at least 1,000 years by the Inuvialuit and their ancestors, and came to prominence during the late 19th century commercial whaling boom. Its first European settlement was by whalers who overwintered with their ships at Pauline Cove. Anglican missionaries, fur traders and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) arrived soon thereafter. The site declined with the end of whaling and the closing of the RCMP detachment left the MacKenzie family as the last year-round Inuvialuit residents.

Herschel Island Territorial Park was created under the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*, which gave Yukon Historic Sites responsibility for the historic settlement at Pauline Cove. Conservation and interpretation have been carried out on these resources since the mid-1980s.



Herschel Island flag raising, Community House, July 2011.



St. Luke's Church interior prior to foundation replacement.

The initial plan to raise the Community House (Building No. 4) was abandoned due to lack of lifting capacity in the available airbag system. Exterior repainting was completed on the Community House and several interior rooms were repainted. The exterior of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals Building was also repainted.

Smaller projects undertaken included the structural upgrade to the porch at the Community House, improvements to the Hunters and Travellers' Cabin, and many maintenance items.

The Yukon Paleontologist and the Senior Projects Archaeologist surveyed the site and collected numerous paleontological specimens. A Historic Interpretive Planner assessed interpretive resources and discussed interpretive requirements with the Park Rangers.

http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/ Exhibitions/Herschel/English/menu. html

Discovery Claim

Discovery Claim on Bonanza Creek, near Dawson City, is the place where Skookum Jim Mason, George Carmack and Dawson Charlie discovered gold in 1896, leading to the famous Klondike Gold Rush. Part of the site is now a National Historic Site of Canada while another remains an active mining claim donated by the late Mr. Art Fry to the Klondyke Centennial Society (KCS).

The Discovery Claim Trail, a 1.2 km walking trail along Bonanza Creek adjacent to Discovery Claim, was

officially opened during Dawson City's 2011 Discovery Day celebrations on August 17, 2011. Development of the trail was a joint project between the KCS, Parks Canada and YG.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) – Yukon Chapter

In July 2011 the Peel Watershed Planning Commission released its *Final Recommended Peel Watershed Land Use Plan.* However implementation of this plan is yet to be initiated.

The land use planning process is, in short, a commission comprised of Yukon Government and affected regional First Nations representatives appointed with the difficult task of developing and recommending a regional land use plan for the Peel, an area several times larger than Yellowstone National Park.

The final plan is the product of seven years of work, which was guided by six principles developed by the Planning Commission in 2008. It consists of years of research, revised drafts, and feedback received and compiled from multiple rounds of public, stakeholder and inter-governmental consultations.

The plan separates the Peel region into three main designations:

Special Management Areas - 55%
 of planning region: Permanent
 protection from surface access
 (e.g. roads) and industrial
 development. Air access would be
 permitted for claims existing prior

- to the beginning of the land use planning process.
- Wilderness Areas 25% of planning region: Interim restriction of surface access and industrial development.
 These areas will be reviewed after a specified period of time.
- Integrated Management Areas 20% of planning region: These are broken down further into Zones I IV, allowing surface access and industrial development. Zone I has the most restrictions, Zone IV the least.

The final plan is not far from what was outlined in the previous plan. It is, however, much easier to follow, with 17,000 km² designated for interim protection and over 13,500 km² open to surface access and industrial development, leaving many options open for the region.

The response from the last round of public consultations in 2010 was overwhelmingly in favour of at least 80% protection, and the vast majority of respondents want to see 100% of the watershed protected. Bearing this in mind, the Commission's decision on 55% permanent protection and 25% interim seems a fair compromise.

The Yukon government's Cabinet recently presented a new set of eight alternative principles that it plans to use to as a guide to modify the Final Recommended Plan to allow industrial access throughout the Peel region.

CPAWS Yukon is alarmed by the government's dismissal of a plan that truly reflects the interests of Yukoner's and respects the wishes of the affected First Nations who have been open about their willingness to compromise.

CPAWS hopes that government will listen to the public's concern regarding these eight new guiding principles before making any modifications to the plan. It is anticipated that a final round of public consultations regarding these eight new guiding principles and the government's modifications to the plan will take place throughout the Yukon during June 2012.

For more information please refer to the following websites: www.peel.planyukon.ca www.protectpeel.ca

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency

Parks Canada in Schools

www.cpawsyukon.org

Formal Education in the North

One of the best ways to make connections with teachers is at territory-wide conferences. With over

600 teachers in attendance from all grades and all communities in the territory plus northern B.C., Parks Canada had a very successful presence at the tri-annual Territory Wide Teachers' Conference in Whitehorse, Yukon. It was a particularly special conference as it was also the occasion for the first Yukon presentation of the "Ambassador for Education Award".

In front of a packed gym full of his peers, Mr. Phill Watts was presented with the award in recognition of his continuous support for Parks Canada and its educational programs through the experiential camping and hiking trips to Kluane National Park of Canada, as well as his promotion and leadership in bringing Parks Canada into the classroom for special learning experiences for his students. Teaching students with learning disabilities requires a special kind of skill set and Mr. Watt's true dedication to teaching is so apparent.



Teacher Award to Phill Watts of Whitehorse at the Yukon Teachers' Conference. L to R: Emma Hansen, Phill Watts, Anne Morin, Elise Maltin, Kate Alexander, Hillarie Zimmermann.

Sahtu

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency

Saoyú-?ehdacho National Historic Site of Canada

Crown-owned portions of Saoyú-?ehdacho National Historic Site (NHS) are now protected under the *Canada National Parks Act*. In December 2011, they were added to the schedule of the National Historic Sites of Canada Order, where they are protected through the NHS General Regulations and the NHS Wildlife and Domestic Animals Regulations. The two peninsulas on western Great Bear Lake were designated as an NHS, without legal protection, in 1998. The entire site received long-term protection from resource exploration through a subsequent land withdrawal under the *Territorial Lands Act*. The addition to the schedule provides the final level of legal protection that was sought for the site.

The $5,565~\rm km^2$ site is an Aboriginal cultural landscape and the Elders' vision is that the site will continue to be a place that sustains Sahtugot'ine

cultural practice, teaching and healing. Eighty percent of the surface lands and all of the subsurface lands are Crownowned, while the remaining 20% of the surface lands are owned by the Déline Land Corporation, pursuant to the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. Saoyú-?ehdacho is the first NHS to be co-operatively managed and the parties to the 2008 Co-operative Management Agreement are committed to managing the site as a whole.

Saoyú-?ehdacho was established following approximately ten years of work by the community and Parks Canada Agency (PCA), and two years of formal negotiations. All three parties to the agreement – the Déline Land Corporation (DLC), the Déline Renewable Resources Council (DRRC) and PCA – now have offices in the DLC building.

These parties manage Saoyú-?ehdacho by consensus, through the Saoyú-?ehdacho Management Board. The Board first met in April 2009 and meets approximately three times a year in Déline and as necessary by conference call. Meetings are open to the public. All participants, including the appointed Board members, representatives of the three parties and interested community members are included in the consensus decision-making process.

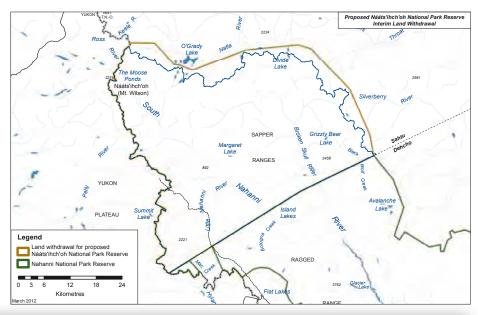
PCA appoints three people to the board, including a co-chair; the DRRC appoints one member; and the DLC appoints a co-chair and, in consultation with the Déline First Nation, one Elder. In addition to the six appointees, the site superintendent, site manager and a Déline manager, appointed by the DLC and the DRRC, attend and participate fully in all meetings.

In June 2011, the Board and select representatives from Déline visited Paulatuk, headquarters for Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada, and Sheep Creek in Ivvavik National Park of Canada. The intent was to experience other PCA sites and facilities and to hear about the Inuvialuit experience with cooperative management of national parks. The meeting in Paulatuk was a historic re-meeting of the Sahtugot'ine and Inuvialuit cultures, and included a drum dance by the Inuvialuit youth drummers as well as the only Dene drum dance (with Déline drummers) that Paulatuk Elders could remember. To contact the Saovú-?ehdacho National Historic Site manager: (867) 589-3130 libby.gunn@pc.gc.ca

Nááts'ihch'oh

Parks Canada Agency's (PCA) interest in protecting the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem (or Tuchitł'á in the dialect of the Tulita District) led to an initiative to establish a new national park reserve protecting the upper watershed of the South Nahanni River in the Sahtu Settlement Area. On the advice of Tulita District Elders, this proposed park reserve is called Nááts'ihch'oh, so named for a unique mountain overlooking The Moose Ponds at the top of the South Nahanni River. The English name for this feature is Mount Wilson.

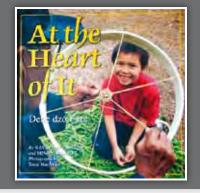
Negotiations between PCA and the Tulita District Nááts'ihch'oh Working Group; comprised of representatives from the Tulita, Norman Wells and Fort Norman Metis Land Corporations, and the Tulita and Norman Wells Renewable Resources Councils; concluded with an



At the Heart of It

Raymond Taniton is Sahtugot'ine, which means "people from the Sahtú or Great Bear Lake." He lives in Déline, NWT, on the shores of Great Bear Lake, one of Canada's largest and most pristine lakes. Raymond has been a long standing and active supporter of the Protected Areas Strategy Committee and worked with others to see Saoyú-?ehdacho become permanently protected as a National Historic Site.

With Mindy Willett, Raymond has co-authored *At the Heart of It*, the seventh book in *The Land is Our Storybook* series. In *At the Heart of It*, Raymond shows readers how to make a traditional Dene drum with the help of his father, Alfred, a leader and the keeper of the drum. Raymond also shares what is 'At the Heart' of Déline being a healthy community.



Impact and Benefit Plan (IBP), which was ratified in April 2010.

Research, including wildlife studies and a Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment, published as Open File 5344 in November 2007, has provided a scientific basis for establishing a boundary for the park reserve. A traditional knowledge study was conducted on the Nááts'ihch'oh area in 2009. An archaeological team, including Elders and student representatives from Norman

Wells and Tulita, surveyed three locations within the proposed area in July 2010. PCA and Tulita District representatives conducted local, regional and national consultations on boundary options in late 2009 / early 2010, and the final consultation report was distributed in September 2010. Of the over 1,600 respondents to the consultation process, 96% supported the initiative to establish the park reserve while 70% specifically wished to see the entire South Nahanni

watershed protected. The full report and appendices are available at http:// www.pc.gc.ca/eng/progs/np-pn/cnpncnnp/naatsihchoh/index.aspx

Subsequent to an announcement of the signing of the IBP and the boundary, PCA will be working toward bringing Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve through the legislative process to be included under the Canada National Parks Act.

South Slave

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency

National Historic Sites of Canada

Catherine Beaulieu Bouvier Lamoureux

On 21 July 2011, the Fort Providence Métis Council learned that their nomination of Catherine Beaulieu Bouvier Lamoureux as a person of national significance was accepted by the Minister of the Environment on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC).

Catherine Beaulieu Bouvier
Lamoureux is the first Métis woman to
be designated of national significance
in the NWT, and is one of 11
Aboriginal women in Canada to attain
this status. Her name has been added
to the distinguished NWT list that
includes Sir George Back, Francois
Beaulieu II, Charles Camsell, Sir
William Edward Parry and John Rae.

Catherine Beaulieu Bouvier
Lamoureux was born ca. 1836 in the
Salt River region near Fort Smith. She
was the daughter of Francois Beaulieu
II, and granddaughter of the first
Francois Beaulieu who accompanied
Alexander Mackenzie in his travels in
1789 and 1793. Francois Beaulieu II
was one of the major trading chiefs of
the northwest at the time Catherine
was born. Her mother was one of
Francois Beaulieu II's country wives either Catherine St. Germain or her
sister Louise St. Germain - whose

parents were Thakavilther and Pierre St. Germain, a trader and guide on John Franklin's first expedition in 1819 to 1822. Catherine grew up in the early northern Métis lifestyle of hunting, fishing, trapping and trade, and spoke Chipewyan, French and likely Michif. In 1845, at the age of nine, she was baptized into the Roman Catholic Church at Portage la Loche, SK and from 1848 to 1852 she attended the Grey Nuns school at St. Boniface, Red River. This experience would have a lasting influence upon her life.

In 1852, at the age of sixteen, she married Joseph Bouvier, 35, in Fort Resolution where her father was in charge of the Hudson's Bay Company. Catherine and Joseph had five children between 1852/1853 and 1861 while living in Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson, Big Island and Fort Providence. In 1861, they permanently settled in Fort Providence where the Bouvier family lived next door to Notre Dame de la Providence mission. For almost 60 years, Catherine's life was linked to the Oblates, the Grey Nuns' school established in 1867, and the Hudson's Bay Company through her husband's employment until his death in 1877. Catherine remarried in 1879 to widower Jean-Baptiste Lamoureux whose children, like Catherine's, were the earliest to attend the school in Fort Providence. Catherine Beaulieu Bouvier Lamoureux died on 24 August, 1918, at the age of 82, two years after the death of her second husband.

The Statement of Significance outlines why Catherine Beaulieu Bouvier Lamoureux was designated a National Historic Person.

- As a woman of energy and ability, and a caregiver, Catherine stands as an iconic figure among the Métis of Fort Providence and the Mackenzie Basin, still revered as the "old mother of all of us," an outstanding inspiration and role model to her people as *Kokum Baie*, "one who gives and sustains life," and *Ehtsu Naats'i*, "Grandmother of the winds," referring to her great abilities as a trayeler.
- Throughout her adult life Catherine was committed to the success of the Roman Catholic Church in the North, contributing substantively to the establishment and growth of the first permanent northern Oblate mission at Fort Providence, provisioning the Oblates and Sisters of Charity (the Grey Nuns), and facilitating the development of a congregation, convent school and hospital.
- Her dual Dene and French-Canadian heritage allowed Catherine to serve as a cultural and economic broker between the people of the Mackenzie Basin, the Oblates, and the Hudson's Bay Company.
- Catherine ensured the transmission and persistence of northern Métis culture and represents much of what is known of the earliest Mackenzie Basin Métis women, an otherwise nearly forgotten generation of matriarchs.

The initial submission on Catherine Beaulieu Bouvier Lamoureux to the HSMBC in 2002 relied on oral history sources and ethno-historical methodology that the HSMBC was not familiar with. This led to the development of new guidelines by Parks Canada (PCA) on the application of oral history methodology and criteria to evaluate submissions on Aboriginal peoples. The HSMBC's recommendation of this nomination to the Minister confirmed the Board's recognition of the equal value of oral traditions to written records.

In order to celebrate this designation, the community of Fort Providence is working toward hosting an event in the community in partnership with PCA in the latter part of August 2012. The event will consist of guest speakers, a feast, Catholic Mass, visiting, entertainment, cultural performances, and a time for reflection and respect. As descendants from a broad cross section of contemporary Northern society, this is an opportunity to celebrate and honour the life of a remarkable Métis woman and ancestor.

Ingrid Kritsch, NWT Representative, Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and

A. Lafferty, President, Fort Providence Metis Council

Parks Canada in Schools

The National Debate Seminar, an initiative of the Canadian Student Debating Federation, was held in Hay River, NWT, March 9th through 13th, 2011.

The participant numbers were high this year and it was a great success!

Parks Canada set up displays and provided information for the debate topics as well as a keynote speaker. The Southwestern NWT (SWNWT) Field Unit Superintendent gave presentations to students on the national parks system, providing a background for the debates that were focussed on resource protection versus development. This education event was co-ordinated by the Public Outreach Education Officer from the SWNWT Field Unit, with assistance from Resource Conservation staff and the Education Specialist for Northern Canada.

National Parks of Canada

Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada Game Regulations Renewal

The Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP) Game Regulations are currently being updated in a process that gives the Aboriginal communities around WBNP a significant role in shaping what future harvesting regulations will look like. By working together, Parks Canada Agency (PCA) and the Aboriginal organizations will be able to develop new regulations necessary to maintain WBNP's ecological integrity, ensure long term traditional harvesting for future generations and set key topics to be addressed by a co-operative management board.

The last revision of the WBNP Game Regulations was completed in 1978. At that time hunting and trapping permits were limited to 325 and eligibility was based on having a direct link to one of the original permit holders. Much has changed in recent years – the 2005 Mikisew Cree Supreme Court of Canada decision found that there is an existing Treaty 8 right to harvest in WBNP and the indigenous Métis have consistently asserted their harvesting rights in WBNP following the 2003 R vs. Powley ruling.

PCA no longer sees harvesting in WBNP as an activity to be limited and controlled; rather it is seen as an important part of protecting, promoting and presenting WBNP's unique cultural heritage. The revision of the 1978 Regulations is motivated largely by the need to move from a privilege-based harvesting system to a modern, rights-based one.

In 2006, PCA and the 11 affected Aboriginal organizations began a series of six fora to clarify the regulations that each party felt were necessary and to produce drafting instructions for the Department of Justice. Justice prepared the proposed draft regulations and a final set of forums (Métis and Treaty 8 separately) have advanced the process to where PCA is now prepared to consult, bilaterally, with the leaders of the Aboriginal organizations.

Through the bilateral consultation process PCA hopes to clarify, with the organizations, what regulations they deem necessary and which proposed regulations may be better dealt with through co-operative management. Once completed, the proposed regulations will go to Treasury Board for final posting and approval.

Initiatives Spanning Two or More Claim Areas

Government of the NWT – Industry, Tourism and Investment

NWT Parks

Preliminary results from the NWT Parks Survey show that the 2011 parks and campground season was a success. NWT parks saw at least a one percent increase in park visitation in 2011 and 90% of visitors who responded said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their park experience. The vast majority were willing to return and recommend visitation.

A number of capital projects have been completed and are being undertaken for the 2011 season in order to enhance visitor services.

60th Parallel Visitor Centre

The grand opening of the new 60th Parallel Visitor's Centre took place in summer 2011. The new facility now features interactive displays and updated travel information, and upgrades to the exterior landscaping. Enhancements in 2012 will include modern displays promoting tourism for all regions of the NWT, including

interactive computer kiosks with touch screens where travellers can learn more about tourism offerings and products throughout the territory, and the ability to book campground sites on-line.

Road and Site Improvements

Improvements were made during the 2011 season to several of NWT parks roadways and campsites, and will continue on into 2012. Several park upgrades will include new kitchen shelters and group camping areas, new sites, hiking trails and RV facility upgrades. Other planned improvements include additional powered sites and upgraded park fencing.

Facilities

Visitors to parks in the NWT will benefit from a wide range of facility improvements for 2012. New washroom facilities have been completed and the development of a new group camping area and kitchen shelter has started at Fred Henne. A new bridge is being constructed at Little Buffalo River Falls, along with new shower buildings at Queen Elizabeth and Blackstone Territorial Parks.

Industry, Trade and Investment invested \$2 million in parks infrastructure in 2011/12, through these projects and other smaller enhancements. Further investment in 2012/13 will continue improvements to loop and RV sites, facility enhancements and trail development.

Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy

Overview

The Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) is a community-guided planning process to protect culturally and ecologically important areas in the NWT. It recognizes the need to balance conservation and economic development while respecting Aboriginal rights and third party interests.

The PAS was developed by regional Aboriginal organizations, the federal and territorial governments,

environmental non-government organizations and industry. It was signed by the federal and territorial governments in 1999. Representatives from these organizations oversee the planning process through their participation on the NWT PAS Steering Committee.

The goals of the PAS are to protect special natural and cultural areas and core representative areas in each NWT ecoregion. An ecoregion is a relatively large area defined by similar climate, vegetation, geology and other ecological patterns. Establishing core representative areas will help conserve diverse landforms, vegetation, wildlife, and habitats in the NWT. While development may be permitted in some protected areas as long as conservation values are not compromised, resource-based development would not be permitted in core representative areas.

Establishment Action Plan

The Establishment Action Plan 2010-2015: Fulfilling the Promise of the Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy (http://www.nwtpas.ca/documents/document-2010-EAP.pdf) was developed by the PAS partners to enhance implementation of the PAS in a co-ordinated and co-operative way. Building on the accomplishments and partnerships fostered under the initial Action Plan (2004-2009), the Establishment Action Plan applies to the entire NWT and focuses on the actions necessary to secure the protection of proposed protected areas.

Protection Highlights

In January 2012, the draft recommendations report for the Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta (Ramparts) candidate National Wildlife Area (NWA) was released for public review. Four more draft recommendations reports are expected to be ready for public review by the end of 2012 (Sambaa K'e, Ka'a'gee Tu, and Kwets'ootl'àà candidate NWAs and Ejié Túé Ndáde (Buffalo Lake Area) Critical Wildlife Area). These reports include the recommendations from each candidate

area's Working Group on the proposed boundary, surface and subsurface management, and management objectives for the area. These reports represent an important step in efforts to establish these important areas.

Candidate Protected Areas

An "Area of Interest" becomes a "Candidate Protected Area" once a government agency agrees to sponsor the area and use the PAS process to establish a protected area under its legislation. The PAS now has seven candidate protected areas: five sponsored by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and two sponsored by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

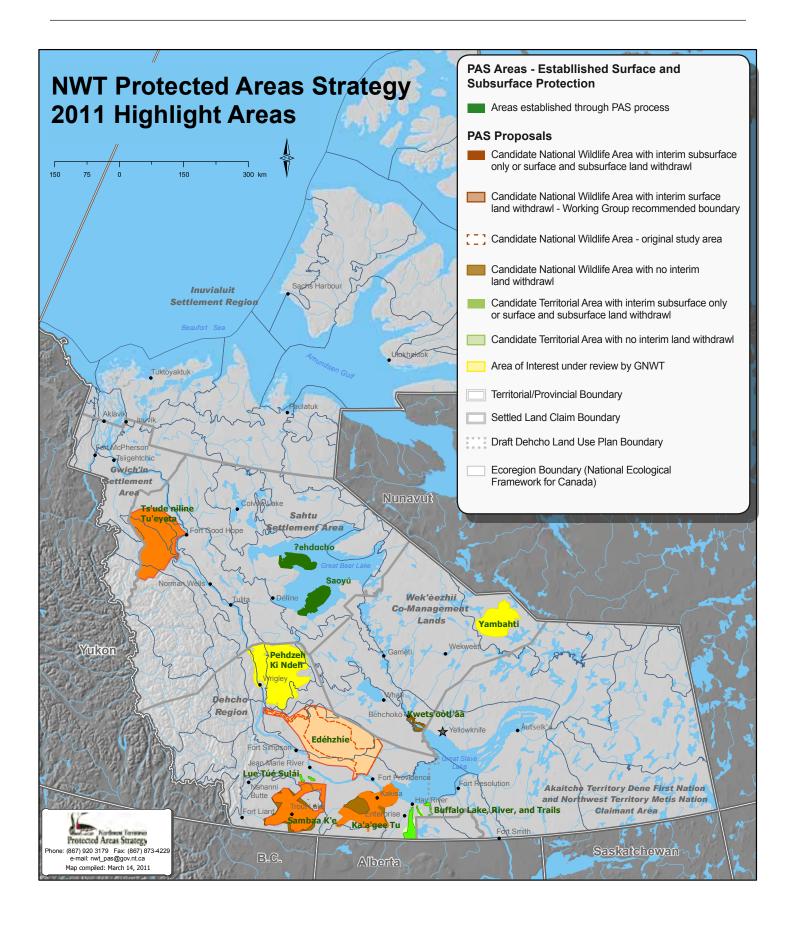
Environment Canada

Canadian Wildlife Service

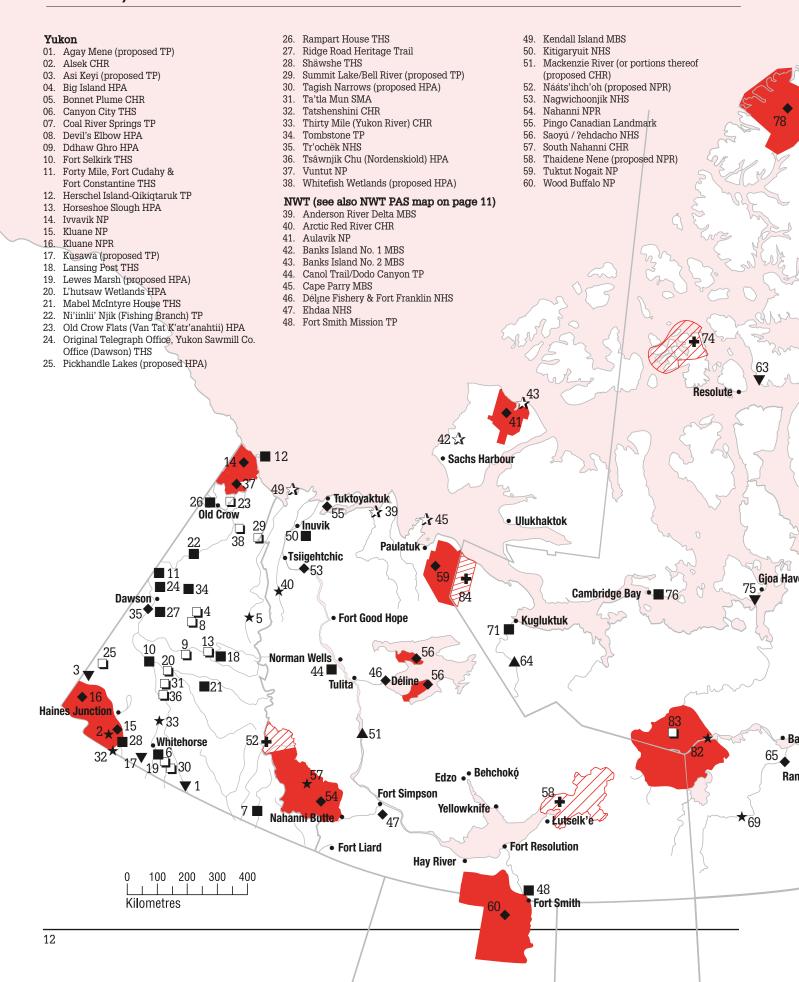
Environment Canada (EC) establishes and manages NWAs through the *Canada Wildlife Act* (Wildlife Area Regulations) to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat for the purposes of conservation, research and/or interpretation/education. In 2008, EC committed to establishing six such areas in the NWT by 2013. As of February 2012, five candidate NWAs are progressing through the PAS process.

Edéhzhíe (Horn Plateau)

Edéhzhíe was the first candidate protected area (NWA) in the NWT. It includes the Horn Plateau, Mills Lake and Willowlake River and provides important habitat for boreal woodland caribou, wood bison, migratory waterfowl and waterbirds. The Edéhzhíe Working Group submitted its recommendation report to the Dehcho First Nations and Tłicho Government in November 2009. Key recommendations include a reduction of the boundary to 14,250 km² (57% of the original 25,230 km² candidate area) and the establishment of a co-management agreement based on the partner communities' and CWS's shared vision for the Edéhzhíe NWA. In July 2010, the Grand Chiefs of the Dehcho



Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut



73. Mallikjuaq TP Legend Nunavut (also see CWS map on page 16) Northern Bathurst Island (proposed NP) 61. Arvia'juaq NHS Existing Parks, Park Reserves, and Northwest Passage Trail TP Auyuittuq NP Sanctuaries 63. Beechey Island TP 76. Ovayok TP Proposed Parks 64. Coppermine River CHR Qaummaarviit TP Study Area 77. **Quttinirpaaq NP** Fall Caribou Crossing NHS 78. Territorial Parks (TP), Park Reserves and Fossil Creek Trail/Alikivik TP 79. Sirmilik NP Historic Sites Soper River CHR 67. Igalugaarjuup Nunanga TP 80. National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), 68. Katannilik TP Sylvia Grinnell TP Landmark and National Historic Sites (NHS) Thelon River CHR Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and 69. Kazan River CHR 83. Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary 70. Kekerten TP National Wildlife Areas (NWA) Tuktut Nogait (proposed NP) Ukkusiksalik NP 71. Kugluk/Bloody Falls TP Areas Under Study ♣ National Park and National Historic Site 72. Lancaster Sound NMCA (proposed NMCA) Proposals Other Heritage Rivers 86. Torngat Mountains NP, NL Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals 87. Wapusk NP, MB ▲ Proposed Heritage Rivers Other Conservation Areas National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCA) Proposals Grise Fiord ond Inlet • Clyde River Qikiqtarjuaq Pangnirtung Igloolik 70 Hall Beach • Igaluit 80 Repulse Bay 68 ■ Kimmirut Cape Dorset **Coral Harbour** ker Lake Chesterfield Inlet kin Inlet -67 61 Arviat

13

First Nations and Tłicho Government submitted the recommendations report to the federal Minister of Environment as part of their formal request to establish the Edéhzhíe NWA.

An interim land withdrawal (of surface and subsurface rights) for the Working Group's recommended boundary is in place until May 31, 2013, to allow time for completion of the establishment of the NWA.

Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta (Ramparts)

The Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta candidate protected area (NWA) includes the Ramparts River drainage and extensive low-lying wetlands near the community of Fort Good Hope. It includes high quality habitat for boreal woodland caribou and boreal mountain caribou, and also supports significant populations of waterfowl and waterbirds. This area is important to the subsistence economy of the community of Fort Good Hope.

The Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta Working Group's draft recommendations report was released for public review in January 2012. The report provides the Working Group's recommendation on the proposed boundary, surface and subsurface management, and management objectives for a Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta NWA. Once complete, the recommendations report will be submitted to the K'asho Got'ine District Land Corporation for approval and furtherance to the federal Minister of Environment as part of the proposal to establish the Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta NWA.

The Interim Land Withdrawal for the study area is in effect until November 30, 2013, for both surface and subsurface rights.

Sambaa K'e (Trout Lake)

Sambaa K'e candidate protected area (NWA) includes much of the Trout Lake watershed, which supports and maintains the traditional lifestyle and culture of the Sambaa K'e Dene. It also contains significant numbers of boreal woodland caribou.

As of February 2012, the Sambaa K'e Working Group is preparing a draft recommendations report for the candidate NWA. The report will include recommendations on the boundary, surface and subsurface management, and management objectives for the candidate NWA. The recommendations report will undergo a public review and, once finalized, will be submitted to the Dehcho First Nations for approval and furtherance to the federal Minister of Environment as part of the proposal to establish the Sambaa K'e NWA. Most of this area has interim protection until November 2013 via an interim withdrawal under the Dehcho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement.

Ka'a'gee Tu (Kakisa)

Ka'a'gee Tu is situated in the southeastern corner of the Dehcho region and includes a large portion of the Kakisa River watershed and Beaver Lake near the community of Kakisa. It is the traditional territory of the Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation and other First Nations. Moose, beaver, fish and large numbers of waterfowl are found throughout the area. Eleven federally listed species at risk, including boreal woodland caribou and rusty blackbirds, and some rare plant species are also found within Ka'a'gee Tu. In 2010, a threatened species, Canada warblers, was discovered in the southern part of the candidate area, almost 200 km north from its nearest known population.

As of February 2012, the Ka'a'gee Tu Working Group will be preparing a draft recommendations report for the candidate NWA. The report will include recommendations on the boundary and management objectives for the candidate NWA. The recommendations report will undergo a public review and, once finalized, will be submitted to the Dehcho First Nations for approval and furtherance to the federal Minister of Environment as part of the proposal to establish the Ka'a'gee Tu NWA. About 80% of the candidate area is covered by an interim withdrawal under the Dehcho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement until November 2013.

Kwets'ootl'àà (North Arm)

Kwets'ootl'àà is situated just south of the community of Behchokò and

encompasses approximately 590 km² of the northern portion of the North Arm of Great Slave Lake. The area has been used traditionally by local Dene and Métis for hunting, fishing and trapping.

In June 2010, EC agreed to sponsor this area due to its high ecological and cultural values. Kwets'ootl'àà is classified as an Important Bird Area in Canada and is a key migratory bird site in the NWT, with large numbers of tundra swans, Canada geese and other waterfowl using it as a staging area. A Working Group was established in 2010 and assessments of the area's cultural, ecological and economic values are nearing completion. Upon recommendation by the Working Group members, CWS applied for an interim land withdrawal for the area in September 2011.

Shúhtagot'ine Néné

Shúhtagot'ine Néné is in the Mackenzie Mountains of the Tulita District. In August 2009, CWS agreed to sponsor Shúhtagot'ine Néné as a candidate NWA. In February 2011, the community made substantial changes to the study area boundary and subsequently decided to seek protection for the area through the Sahtu Land Use Plan.

Government of the Northwest Territories

Industry, Tourism and Investment & Environment and Natural Resources

Two territorial departments have laws to establish protected areas. The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) can establish a variety of protected areas including Cultural Conservation Areas and Wilderness Conservation Areas using the Territorial Parks Act. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) can establish Critical Wildlife Act. As outlined in the Establishment Action Plan, the GNWT plans to assess up to six areas for territorial establishment by 2015.

Ejie Túé Ndáde (Buffalo Lake Area)

ENR has sponsored this area as a candidate Critical Wildlife Area.
Ejie Túé Ndáde includes the western portion of Ejie Túé (Buffalo Lake) and Ejie Túé Dehé (Buffalo River) and lies within the southeastern corner of the Dehcho Region. A traditional hunting, trapping and berry harvesting area, Ejie Túé Ndáde has been important to the K'atl'odeeche First Nation for untold generations and provides critical habitat for moose, waterfowl and fish spawning.

As of January 2012, the Ejie Túé Ndáde working group is preparing a draft recommendations report for the boundary and management objectives for the critical wildlife area. Once finalized, Kátlódeeche First Nation is expected to submit the Recommendations Report to ENR asking for the Critical Wildlife Area to be established. Most of this area has interim protection until November 2013 through the interim land withdrawal under the Dehcho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement.

Łue Túé Sulái (the Five Fish Lakes)

This area is being sponsored by ITI as a Cultural Conservation Area. It includes Ekali Lake (Ezáa Łue Túe), Sanguez Lake (Tł'onie Túé), Gargan Lake (Thtetal), McGill Lake (Tthets'éhk'e'), and Deep Lake (Dechi Ná?a). Encompassing an area of approximately 180 km², these lakes have been used for traditional activities such as hunting, fishing and gathering for countless generations. Jean Marie River First Nation has proposed Łue Túé Sulái as a protected area to ensure future generations will remain connected to their culture

and history. A Working Group was established in 2011 to oversee studies of the area's economic, cultural and ecological values and all assessments should be complete by July 2012. Most of this area has interim protection until November 2013 through the Dehcho First Nations interim land withdrawal.

Areas of Interest

Areas of interest have significant natural and/or cultural values and have support for formal protection from communities and/or regional organizations. The GNWT is currently reviewing two sponsorship applications.

The Pehdzeh Ki First Nation applied for sponsorship of the Pehdzeh Ki Ndeh area of interest as a Cultural Conservation Area (under the *Territorial Parks Act*) in January 2009. The Tłįchǫ Government applied for sponsorship of the Yambahti Area of Interest as a Critical Wildlife Area (under the *Wildlife Act*) in April 2010. Communities have identified approximately nine additional areas of interest but have not yet reached the step of requesting a sponsoring agency.

Conservation Science Highlights

The PAS continues to work on adapting standard conservation science principles to fit the unique conditions of the NWT to help make good land stewardship decisions.

To ensure that the diversity of freshwater ecosystems is also represented in the network of protected areas in the NWT, a freshwater classification system was created and peer-reviewed by freshwater specialists around Canada. Work is ongoing to develop a method for assessing the representation of freshwater ecosystems and to combine the results with the work on the representation of terrestrial ecosystems. This work is done on a large scale and is referred to as coarse-filter ecological representation.

As part of the more detailed work on ecosystem representation, information and sightings of unique or special terrestrial features have been documented. A number of unique or special freshwater features and information on moss and lichen are being compiled and analyzed. This information is now or will be available on the website when complete.

(http://www.nwtpas.ca/sciencespecialfeatures.asp)

The PAS is also working with The Nature Conservancy and the Scenarios for Analysis and Planning group based at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks to model potential climate change induced biome (large-scale ecosystem) shifts in Alaska and northern Canada (Yukon, NWT and western Nunavut) over the course of this century. The goal is to identify biomes that are least or most likely to change. The NWT PAS will use this information to evaluate how NWT protected areas and protected area proposals may be affected by climate change. It is expected that a report and all products will be completed by March 31, 2012.

Nunavut

Government of Canada – Environment Canada

Canadian Wildlife Service

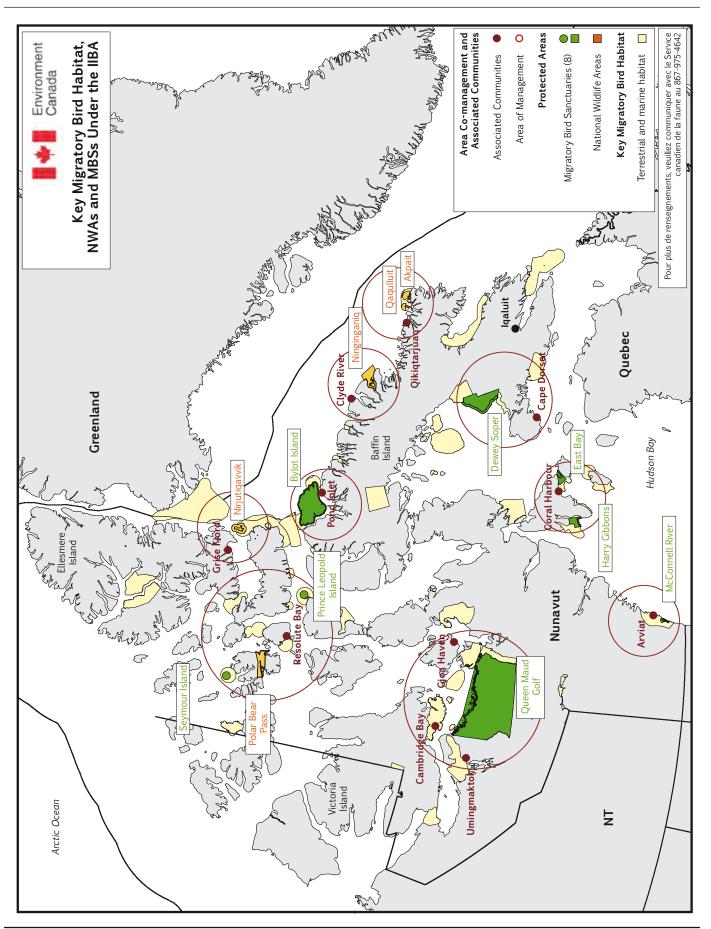
National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

In the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA), there are eight migratory bird

sanctuaries (MBS) and five national wildlife areas (NWA). The purpose of an MBS and NWA is to protect migratory birds and other wildlife and their habitat. Under the Impact and Benefits Agreement in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, each of the MBSs and NWAs within the NSA will be co-managed by affected local

Nunavut community committees called Area Co-management Committees (ACMC).

ACMCs have been established for Ninginganiq, Akpait and Qaqulluit NWAs and Dewey Soper, McConnell River and Queen Maud Gulf MBSs. The remaining ACMCs will likely be established and operating within the



next two to four years. The ACMCs will be responsible for reviewing MBS and/or NWA permit applications as well as setting up their respective management plans.

Inuit Student Mentorship and Inuit Field Research Assistants Program

Nunavut beneficiaries have been hired by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) under the Inuit Student Mentorship (ISM) and Inuit Field Research Assistants (IFRA) programs. The ISM program provides opportunities to work in Environment Canada (EC) offices in Yellowknife and Igaluit and possibly other EC locations, as well as participate in field projects in Nunavut. In addition to working with EC staff, opportunities are also provided to work on conservation-related projects, such as analyzing migratory bird research results and collecting Inuit knowledge on migratory birds.

Beneficiaries hired through the IFRA program have participated in summer field work, ranging from goose banding near the Queen Maud Gulf MBS and duck surveys by boat in Hudson Bay, to shorebird monitoring and research on rare birds in the High Arctic. For more information on the ISM and IFRA program, please contact the Protected Areas Co-ordinator at the Canadian Wildlife Service in Iqaluit at 867-979-8037.

Parks Canada Agency

Northern Bathurst Island

In 2009, Parks Canada (PCA) and the Oikiqtani Inuit Association (OIA) reinitiated discussions regarding the potential establishment of a national park on northern Bathurst Island. The area under consideration includes all of the biophysical characteristics of the high Arctic Archipelago, including critical habitat of the endangered Peary caribou. The proposed national park will represent the Western High Arctic Natural Region of Parks Canada's System Plan. An interim land withdrawal is in place for the area of interest until October 2014

to give PCA and OIA the time to negotiate an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) and make final park boundary recommendations.

The Nunavut Land Claims
Agreement requires that PCA and the
Designated Inuit Organization (QIA
in this case) conclude an IIBA prior to
establishing a park in Nunavut. The
IIBA addresses any matters connected
to the park creation that would have
a detrimental impact on Inuit or that
could reasonably confer a benefit on
Inuit. Negotiation of an IIBA between
PCA and QIA began in 2010.

Sirmilik National Park of Canada Sinaasiurvik / Elwin Inlet

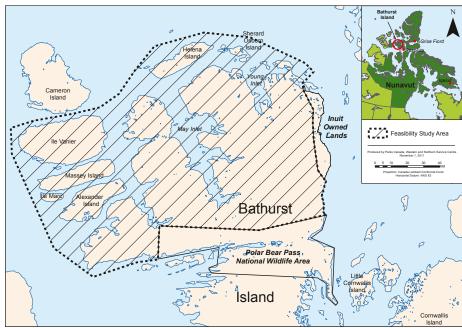
The aim of this project was to map one of the few known archaeological sites on the north coast of the Borden Peninsula, Baffin Island.

Sinaasiurvik is an important site with Thule winter houses and the remains of inukshuit, a qamutik, many tent rings, caches and hearths. It has been occupied over many centuries because of its favourable location near the floe edge where sea mammal hunting is productive. The features, artifacts and large pieces of whalebone on the site were mapped



Bowhead whalebone in one of the Thule houses.

FEASIBILITY STUDY AREA FOR A NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL ON BATHURST ISLAND



by a Canada Land Surveyor and a Global Positioning System receiver. The individual features and artifacts were photographed and described; no artifacts were collected.

The communities of Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay supported the project and two students from Arctic Bay worked on different aspects. Steven Hughes assisted the Surveyor in the field and April Eecheak conducted oral history interviews with Elders in Arctic Bay. A map with the feature locations and topographical details and a report illustrating the features, as well as the transcripts of oral history interviews with Elders in Arctic Bay, have been completed.

Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment

Nunavut Parks and Special Places Division

Program Development and Planning

The Government of Nunavut's (GN) Department of Environment (DoE) Nunavut Parks and Special Places (NP&SP) Division continues to make progress in redefining its core tools. Included in this is the advancement of a new NP&SP Program and finalizing new frameworks for Park Management Plans, Master Plans and Inventories of Park Resources. Revisions to the Territorial Parks Act and its Regulations to reflect the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, as well as review of the Territorial Parks System Plan, are also underway.

In keeping with the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for Territorial Parks, the GN, represented by DoE, remains committed to working with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and each of the three regional Inuit associations in the joint planning, management and establishment of impact and benefit measures related to protected areas in Nunavut. The parties continue to focus on implementing the IIBA and to negotiate funding of the IIBA's 17 Articles with the federal government.

Continued Support for National Protected Area Initiatives

DoE, with NP&SP acting as the lead, has provided support for many federal protected area initiatives in Nunavut. DoE has supported feasibility studies for Ukkusiksalik National Park of Canada and the proposed national park on Bathurst Island. The Department has also supported the feasibility study and development of the Lancaster Sound National Marine Conservation Area. DoE's involvement at the federal level also includes support for a national marine conservation area framework through collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Territorial Park Feasibility Studies and New Initiatives

Based on attraction development projects initiated in 2001, DoE's mandate under the Territorial Parks Act and existing Land Use and Community and Economic Development Plans, NP&SP continues to work with the communities of Clyde River and Kugaaruk to advance park background and feasibility studies in these areas. Within the context of the development of the Nunavut Parks Program, NP&SP is also working with local communities to study four additional locations including Napartulik/Axel Heiberg Island, the Belcher Islands (Sanikiluaq), the area surrounding Arviat, and the Back River watershed in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions. The focus is on protecting and preserving these areas' natural and cultural heritage, and enhancing opportunities for recreation, tourism and economic development.

Aggutinni

DoE has been actively working with the community of Clyde River and the Oikiqtani Inuit Association to develop a territorial park in the region. A core Park Advisory Committee, comprised of key community representatives from the Clyde River Hunters and Trappers Organization, Hamlet Council, Community Lands and Resources Committee, Elders Council and Youth Council, led the process. The feasibility study process has been completed and direction from Nunavut's Cabinet to move forward with the master planning phase is the next step in the park establishment process.

Clyde River sits in the midst of a spectacular fiord landscape on the east coast of Baffin Island. Each fiord has its own unique sculpted rock walls with dramatic formations, like the monumental cliffs at the junction of Sam Ford Fiord and Walker Arm. and the high vertical cliffs of the meandering China Wall. The area around Clyde River includes openocean, deep inlets, icebergs, sheer mountain walls, glaciers, rivers, valleys and tundra. Wildlife includes polar bears, seals, narwhal, bowhead whales, caribou, hare, arctic fox, and numerous species of birds. The rolling hills of the Barnes Plateau, found at the end of the fiords, continue to be important caribou hunting grounds for Nunavummiut.

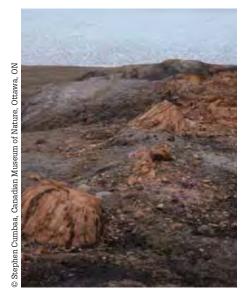
Kugaaruk

Based on community consultations and site visits identifying areas of interest in, around and outside of Kugaaruk, the Hamlet endorsed a final feasibility study and recommended a park concept in 2010/11. Discussions between the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA), DoE staff and the community are underway to determine how best to proceed with a potential territorial park or special place in the region.

Following discussions with KIA and the community, ministerial and cabinet direction will be sought on whether to proceed with the next phases of the planning and park establishment in the area.

Napartulik/Axel Heiberg Island Fossil Forest

Napartulik is on uninhabited Axel Heiberg Island, Canada's seventhlargest island and the second-most northern island in Canada. It is located in the Oikiqtaaluk Region approximately 385 km north of Grise Fiord, Canada's northernmost community, about 1,895 km from Iqaluit and an amazing 3,860



Ancient forest remnants mummified in time, Axel Heiberg Island.

km north of Ottawa. This makes Axel Heiberg closer to the capitals of Norway and Iceland than to the capital of Canada. It is also relatively close to Outtinirpaaq National Park of Canada.

The fossil forests of Napartulik are approximately 45 million years old, yet their remains – stumps, leaves, branches, trunks and cones – are still clearly visible on the surface of the high arctic soil. Even more intriguing is the fact that the abundant plant material is not fossilized but perfectly preserved in a mummified state. Napartulik is an extremely rare site. There are only two or three similar places known to exist in the world, but none that boast such a well-preserved collection of ancient plant life. In addition to mummified plants, Napartulik is also known for several major fossil animal discoveries including giant tortoises. It may also hold the key to understanding one of the most ancient and devastating global extinction events in Earth's history.

DoE finalized a background study in late 2011. The information collected supports the feasibility of a territorial park at Napartulik to preserve its astounding and globally significant fossils and sensitive natural environment. Inuit, Government and stakeholder review and consultations to determine how best to proceed are in progress. A key component of a

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency

Wapusk National Park of Canada

Initial inventories of archaeological sites and cultural resources in Wapusk National Park began in conjunction with the park's establishment in 1998. In baseline surveys, 82 sites were recorded; all north of the Owl River, largely on gravel beach ridges and at the mouths of large creeks and rivers from the Broad River to Cape Churchill. The park area has been used extensively for seasonal, short-term purposes by aboriginal and Euro-Canadian groups but has never been intensively occupied. Staff members have been proactive in recording new sites over the past few years. New sites were also located on the 2011 survey, bringing the total of known sites in Wapusk to 103.

Twenty-four sites were visited by helicopter; many were photographed and mapped in detail. A minor excavation of a hearth in a game trail was undertaken but produced only a charcoal sample insufficient for carbon dating.

Several site maps were made by imposing Global Positioning System field co-ordinates on QuickBird imagery (*http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QuickBird*). This proved to be a successful method of producing a high quality site map with cultural and topographical features.

Most of the sites examined are small with fewer than 10 to 12 tent rings and associated features, such as caches and hearths. Diagnostic artifacts are often lacking. Generally, the tent rings are fairly large (four to five metres in diameter) and made with small loosely-spaced rocks, indicating occupations in the later historic period.

Two larger sites contain evidence of Historic Inuit occupation – one in the form of a heavy tent, and *igaviit*, the typical Inuit three-stone hearth, at the second site. Another site was the location of an isolated find of an almost complete but fragmented kaolin pipe, produced by the John Ford Company in England between 1830 and 1836.

© Margaret Bertulli, PCA, 2011

Rodney Redfield taking GPS reading at 60K32

potential territorial park at Napartulik will be the protection of these outstanding natural features, as well as providing opportunities for broad education programs to help people learn about and appreciate this unique place in Nunavut.

Sanikiluag (Belcher Islands)

NP&SP is currently working with the community to collect information and explore options for a territorial park or special place development in the area. A final background study, coupled with a community supported park option, will flow from this process to help guide the determination for a potential park or special place in the area.

The community of Sanikiluaq and the surrounding islands, located 150 kms from mainland Quebec in the south eastern part of Hudson Bay, represents a unique marine/ coastal landscape that is not currently represented in the Nunavut Parks Program. Consisting of over 1,500 islands with a total land area of over 1,300 km², this distinct location offers one of the most southerly extensions for many high arctic species making it an important area for further study and future protection. Breeding populations of waterfowl, including ptarmigan and eider duck, and seasonal species, such as harbour seal, beluga and white whale, are prominent among the islands.

Outstanding scenic features of waterfalls, distinct geological formations, sandy beaches, twisting inlets and bays make the islands a prime location for water-based recreation and attraction-based tourism development. The islands also feature an abundance of historic and cultural resources. Over 67 documented archaeological sites, dating back to the Dorset period, have been identified and park or special place establishment could allow for the preservation of these cultural resources while offering opportunities for interpretation and heritage appreciation by residents and visitors alike.

Back River

The Back River, near the communities of Baker Lake and Gjoa Haven, is being studied for consideration as a Canadian Heritage River (CHR) nominee.

Baker Lake, the only inland Nunavut community, is in the Kivalliq Region. Gjoa Haven, also known as "Uqsuqtuq" (meaning "it's oily"), is in the Kitikmeot Region. The Back River is one of Nunavut's largest rivers, flowing east from just inside the NWT, then turning north about 300 km north of Baker Lake, where it heads for the sea. Some Inuit refer to the Back River as "Ukkuhikhalik", meaning "place to find stone for making pots and oil lamps".

CHRs are quite different from territorial parks. The main difference is that there are no specific laws or regulations that come into effect when a river is designated to the CHR System. No land changes hands either. What changes is how communities, landowners and outsiders see the river. It takes a special river, rich in natural and cultural heritage and recreational opportunities, to become a CHR. Besides being recognized for their unique heritage values, CHRs also have the benefit of going through management planning exercises centered on building consensus among communities, landowners and regulators about how best to manage the river to maintain and celebrate its heritage values.

In 2011 DoE, in partnership with the communities of Gjoa Haven and Baker Lake, completed a background study detailing the heritage, cultural and recreational values of the Back River watershed. Community follow-up consultations and Inuit, Government and stakeholder reviews of the background study will take place in 2012 to determine support for a potential CHR nomination.

Arviat

Arviat is the second most-southern community in Nunavut, located in the Kivalliq Region approximately 260 km north of Churchill, MB, and about 100 km away from the tree line. Arviat is located in close proximity to the McConnell Migratory Bird Sanctuary, the Arvia' juaq and Oikiqtaarjuk National Historic Sites of Canada, and is surrounded by a number of rivers that wind through the open tundra.

DoE and the community of Arviat commenced the first steps of a protected area background study in late 2011 which will be ongoing into 2012. Potential park development areas around Arviat have been identified at, but not limited to, the McConnell River Falls for its scenery and wildlife – which would complement the Migratory Bird Sanctuary managed by Canadian Wildlife Service; Padlei at Kinga Lake for its archaeological, historical, and wildlife significance; Maguse River and Post north of Arviat for its historical significance; and Edehon Lake southwest of Arviat also for its archaeological, scenery, and wildlife importance.

Existing Territorial Parks

Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park

Just inland from the west coast of Hudson Bay, about eight kms northwest of the community of Rankin Inlet sits Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga ("the land around the river of little fishes") Territorial Park. The most outstanding feature is the historic site Qamaviniqtalik ("place of ancient sod houses") and its interpretive walking trail located on the flood plains of the Meliadine River.

Numerous archaeological features at Qamaviniqtalik are representative of the transition from the Thule culture to the historic Caribou Inuit culture.

Park development has been ongoing since the summer of 2003. In 2011/12, work continued to maintain the existing facilities at the park including the installation of more tent platforms and improved signage. It is anticipated that a new pavilion facility will be built in 2012.

Katannilik Territorial Park

Katannilik ("the place of waterfalls"), in south Baffin near Kimmirut, is an area of approximately 1,270 km², almost all within the Soper River watershed – a Canadian Heritage River. The park provides opportunities for water-based recreation including rafting, canoeing and kayaking, as well as hiking, cross-country skiing, dog sledding and snowmobiling. The community organizes cultural events for visitors to the park and the increasing number of cruise ships visiting Kimmirut.



New tent platforms in Igalugaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park.



Hudson's Bay Company interpretive and restoration building work completed to date

Summer visitor use alone has resulted in increasing economic impacts in Kimmirut for arts and crafts, homestay programs, and community events. The Soper House, the home of the 1930s explorer and biologist Dewey Soper, now serves as the Soper House Gallery where soapstone carvings, jewellery made from local stone, and handicrafts are for sale through the Quliruakut Society.

Katannilik Park staff host annual summer science camps in the park for local students. Here they learn about wildlife and plant ecology, traditional use of rocks and minerals, navigation using rocks/stars, and safe river-boating skills. A new guide map for the summer visitor season was completed in 2011 along with

the design and installation of a new comfort station for the park.

Kekerten Territorial Park

Kekerten Territorial Park, located 50 km from Pangnirtung within Cumberland Sound, was a highly used Scottish Whaling Station during the 1850s and 1860s. A number of artefacts remain, including the 1857 foundations of three storehouses, large cast-iron pots and restored tent frames and rings.

NP&SP and the community of Pangnirtung have been working on the recreation of the Scottish Whaling Station at Kekerten, increasing the interpretive potential of the site to include the relationship of Inuit with the whalers. In 2009, NP&SP continued enhancing the whaling

messaging through maintenance and upgrades to the Hudson's Bay Company "Blubber Station", which houses interpretive messages and two reconstructed whale boats from the era. The station and interpretive program supports local outfitters who provide tours to the park, the increased cruise ship visitations, and student programs held in the territorial park. Restoration work is being completed in three phases. Phase 1 and 2 are complete; phase 3 is set to begin in summer of 2012 and will include the installation of interpretive panels.

Mallikjuaq Territorial Park

Mallikjuaq, ("big wave") is an appropriate name for an island where rounded rock hills and low tundra valleys resemble giant rolling waves. Mallikjuaq Territorial Park, a 45 minute walk from Cape Dorset, showcases archaeological sites and stone structures dating back over three millennia.

Boardwalks for the park were constructed through the collaborative efforts of the students from Peter Pitseolak School, providing additional protection of sensitive lands. The partnership provided the opportunity for students to learn valuable and practical skills. The youth of the community are also afforded a positive experience with a park that highlights the importance of protected areas.

Coral Harbour - Fossil Creek Trail/Alijivik

Together with the community of Coral Harbour, NP&SP identified the historic site of Alijivik as the preferred location for a territorial park in 2004/05. Alijivik is located on Inuit Owned Lands which are managed by the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) and, as such, will require agreements between DoE and the KIA, and the Hamlet and the KIA for the development of a territorial park. Until these agreements are in place DoE will not be able to advance the Alijivik proposal.



Nunavut Parks and staff presenting certificate of appreciation to Pitseolak School students.

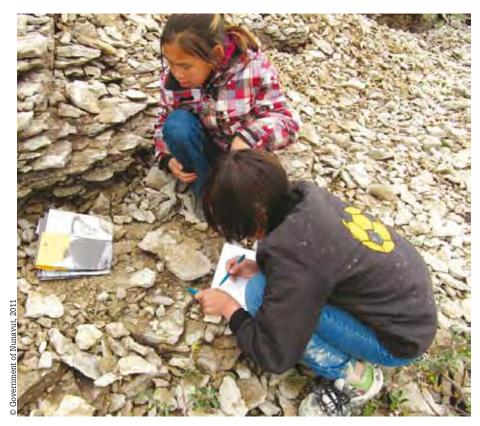
In the interim, NP&SP has worked with the community to develop an interpretive trail program at Fossil Creek, which is renowned for its high concentration of exposed fossils. In the fall of 2011, approximately 30 students from the grade 5 and 6 classes at the Sakku School in Coral Harbour joined DoE staff for a day out at the Fossil Creek Trail. Through interactive discussion and scavenger hunts, using the interpretive signage and literature developed for the park, students learned valuable information about how the trail was established. the fossils found in the area, the importance of stewardship and the protection of special places.

Sylvia Grinnell and Qaummaarviit Territorial Parks

Located one kilometre from the heart of Igaluit, Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park provides an opportunity for many visitors and residents to easily access an Arctic landscape. The park provides visitors with a chance to see a variety of Arctic plants, mammals and birds. Cultural heritage in the park area includes traditional fishing sites at the Sylvia Grinnell River rapids, stone cairns and Thule ruins. A recent recreation study in Igaluit found demand and use of the park has made Sylvia Grinnell Park Iqaluit's number one recreation site.

In February of 2011, an agreement was reached between the City of Iqaluit and the GN's DoE to transfer administration and control of Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park, within the municipal boundary of Iqaluit, to DoE. This transfer of land is a tremendous step forward.

DoE continues to work on the development of camping plots and access roads within the park. New walking trails and adjacent parking stalls have recently been completed. Work will continue during the summer of 2012.



Students from Sakku School participating in Fossil Creek TP Education Day.



Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park - new trail work completed.

For More Information

Additional information on the initiatives described in New Parks North can be obtained from the following offices:

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Department of Tourism and Culture

Historic Sites Unit Government of Yukon

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www.tc.gov.yk.ca/historicsites or www.yukonhistoricplaces.ca

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Industry, Tourism and Investment

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All of the agencies listed here have contributed to this publication. Our goal is to provide a single, annual publication of interest to everyone following northern natural and cultural heritage conservation issues in a convenient and economical medium. Your comments are welcome, addressed to the Editor at the National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservations Areas address above.